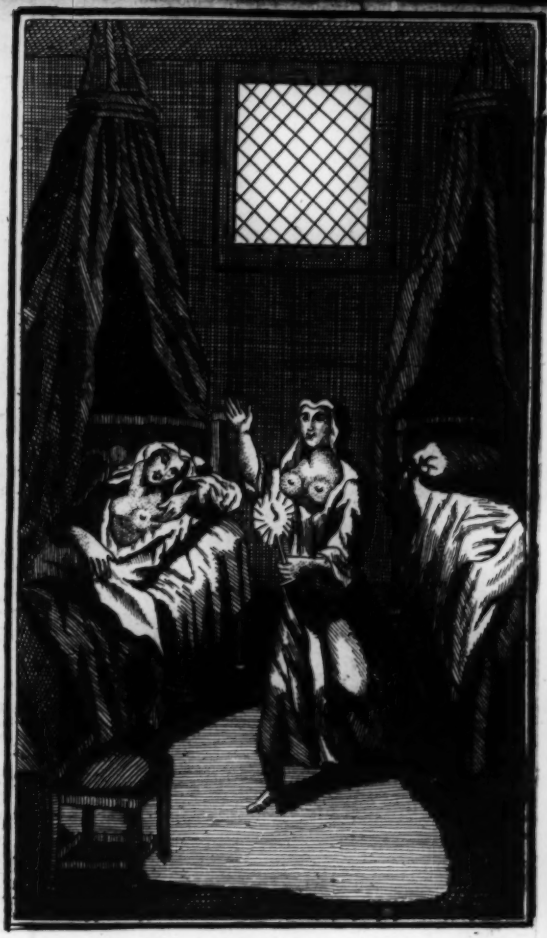

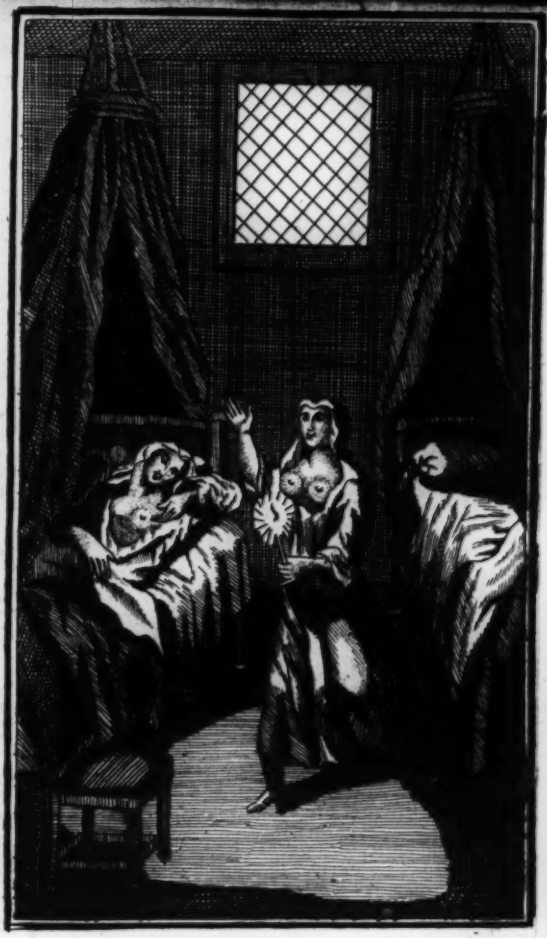

THE LIFE OF Donna *Rosina*,

by Alonso de Castillo Solorzano

A

NOVEL

BEING,

A Pleasant Account of the Artifices and *Impostures* of a Beautiful Woman, who Jilted and Cheated the most Experienc'd *Sharpers*, and made all Persons Unhappy, that Thought her Handsome.

Originally a Spanish *Relation. In* Three Parts. *Done into* English, *by the Ingenious Mr.* E. W. *a known Celebrated* AUTHOR.

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TO THE READER.

THere was formerly Publiſhed in the *Spaniſh* Tongue, a Treat call'd, the Life of *Guſman de Alfarache*, the Humour of which took ſo well in this Nation, that he and his Rogueries were ſeveral times committed to the Preſs. The *Deſign* of that Work was to repreſent One on whom either *Nature*, or a ſtrange *Aſcendant* of *Mercury*, the *Thieving Planet*, had beſtowed a Talent of *Cheating* and Circumvention, that he not only Tricked all he dealt with, but became a Precedent or Pattern to all thoſe who out of Neceſſity or Inclination, have been Obliged to live by their Shifts, or their Wits, as ſome call it.

The preſent Story hath ſome Reſemblance to that *Ingenious* Piece, for

such as it brings in a *Woman*, engaged in as great Designs as her Predeceſſor *Guſman*, but with this Advantage, *That the Weakneſs of her Sex obliges her to make Uſe of Men for the Proſecution of her Enterprizes.* They are both Originally *Spaniſh* Relations, a *Language* we are obliged to for many Pieces of this Kind.

The *Intrigues* inſerted, are not altogether *Imaginary*, but ſuch as really happen'd in ſome Eminent Cities of *Spain*; which yet if any Perſon have not *Faith* enough to Believe, the only way to be Satisfied is, to Travel to thoſe Places where the Scenes are laid, and thereby fully Inform himſelf of the Reality of theſe *Tranſactions*.

And ſo I Wiſh the *Reader* as much Pleaſure in Peruſing, as I had in Tranſlating the ſame.

E. W.

THE

THE

LIFE

OF

Donna *Rosina*,

A Notorious *CHEAT*, &c.

Part the First.

THIS Miracle of Female Subtilty, whose Life and Actions are our present Subject, was Young, Sprightly, and very Beautiful; Three Dangerous Advantages when they are attended with those Qualifications, for which she was no less Famous, namely, *Craft*, *Impudence*, and *Hypocrisy*, and so

liable Longing after other People's Goods; and all these strengthned by a natural Propensity, as being the Issue of Parents, who, instead of giving a timely Check to these Vicious Inclinations, rather incouraged her in them by their ill Example, as being addicted to the same themselves from their Youth.

Signior *Trapassa*, Father to this worthy Person, whose Atchievements we intend to Relate, had been Condemned to the Gallies, for having Assumed to himself an Order of Knighthood, before he had made the necessary Tryals, upon which the King bestows that Honour, by the Sovereign Council of *Portugal*. His design in doing it, was, that he might the more conveniently follow his Profession of Stealing about the Court, where he was Respected as a Knight; and the better under that Cloak to play those Pranks of Villany, wherein he was such a Professor, that the most expert Thief might have learnt Lessons from him.

A certain Woman whom he used an unlawful Trade withal, was so Incensed against him, upon the Account of some Jealousy, that he reserved not all his Kindness for her, that she put in a Charge against him, the Issue whereof was, that he was preferr'd to the Gallies, where he passed o-

ver

ver the Term of his Condemnation, and ſomewhat more. He was put into that Squadron of Slaves, which is called the Squadron of *Spain*, and turned over from *Toledo* to St. *Mary*'s Port, with the reſt who were in the ſame Predicament of Slavery. He made an Attempt to recover his Liberty, but the Plot being diſcover'd, he was put to greater Hardſhip than he had otherwiſe been.

As ſoon as the Lady *Eſtephania* (ſo was the Jealous Woman that had ſhewed him that Trick, called) underſtood he was gone to Exerciſe that painful Employment, tho' ſhe was not of an over Compaſſionate Nature, yet ſhe very ſeriouſly Repented that ſhe had been the Occaſion of his Miſery; and conſidered, that ſhe could not make better Satisfaction for that Injury, than by proffering herſelf to him in Marriage, as ſoon as the time of his Pennance was Expired.

And what inclined her the more to this kind of Reparation was, that ſhe had already a Daughter by him, which Child is the Heroine of our preſent Hiſtory. With this Reſolution ſhe left the Court, and went to *Sevil*, hoping in that great and famous City, ſhe might the ſooner hear ſome News of him, whom ſhe had Reduced to ſuch a wretched Condition, and whom ſhe would

once more have gladly seen at Liberty.

Estephania had a House well Furnished, being a *Genoese*'s Widow, who had left her very well to pass: That, and the Care she took to go in rich Cloaths, gained her such Repute at *Sevil*, that she was lookt upon as some Person of Quality, but she soon lost that, when the Relation of her Life came to be known; especially this Particular of it. That out of an excess of Jealousy she had preferr'd a young Gallant to the Gallies, whom she had often entertain'd on a Feather bed. This imprudent Action made her Abominable in the Opinion of the most intimate of her own Sex, whose Indignation she allow'd to be more just against her, when she consider'd, that she had Prostituted her self to an Impostor, and a Rascal fit only for the Gallies.

These Reasons and Reproaches, obliged her to remove from *Madrid* to *Sevil*, carrying all she could conveniently with her, and Selling the rest, which brought her in a considerable Sum of Money. Having thus order'd her Affairs, she went towards *Sevil* by Coach, with two Maids to wait on her, intending to continue there, till the time of *Trapassa*'s Serving in the Gallies was expired, for she kept an exact Account of it, which being near out, she understood that the *Spanish* Gallies were arrived safe at St.

Mary's

Mary's Port. She immediately went thither, not in so high a Dress as she wore at *Sevil*, but in a more modest Habit, that she might not be afterwards Reproach'd, That she was Wife of a Galley-Slave, whom she had Courted out of Chains to her Embraces.

She was soon Informed that her Gallant was in the Captain's own Galley, very Jocund, and advanced to the Office of a Foreman, a Preheminence among the Slaves which Exempts them from Rowing, which he had acquir'd of the General by the Pleasantness of his Conversation; and was by this time so well acquainted with the Gallies, that he seemed not to Value whether ever he came out of them. But the arrival of *Estephania* Remedied all. Her first Business was to Treat about his Liberty with those Persons on whom the Matter depended; and feeding them with Money, *Trapassa* had no Knowledge of her Design, as not having seen her, nor stir'd out of the Galley; so that he was much Surprized when he came to understand that some Person did not only Sollicit his Freedom, but was likewise Liberal of their Money to procure it; for it never entred into his Thoughts, that his old Love *Estephania*, should have changed the cruel Humour he had left her in, into Mildness and Compas-

sion for him. All things being agreed on, for *Trapassa*'s Discharge, his Chains were struck off, and he was told, he might go whither he would. In the mean time could not tell who had been the Author of that Happiness, which was no small one, in regard that when poor Slaves have served out the time of their Condemnation, yet there are some Pretences found to hinder their being set at Liberty; so that though they have been Sentenc'd only to Serve 4 Years, yet have been forced to remain in Servitude Five or Six.

Signior *Trapassa* was extreamly Astonisht when he found himself in the Presence of *Estephania*, who stood waiting on the Shoar to receive him, and perceiv'd, that it was only by her means that he had recovered his Freedom. She received him with open Arms; and he, to express his Gratitude, returned the like obliging Caresses to her: So that the Kindness he had now received from her, made him quit his Resentments for the Miseries she had occasion'd him. He was somewhat Disturb'd that she did not appear in that Habit which he had left her at *Madrid*, as being ignorant of her Design in Disguising herself; nor could she at that time give him an Account of it, by reason the Captain and others who deliver'd him, were present, and whom she was obliged to

entertain

entertain at Dinner. Having Treated 'em very handſomely, all withdrew, ſave only *Trapaſſa*, who continued ſtill with his Miſtriſs. Finding themſelves alone, they repeated their Careſſes, and outvied one another in Aſſurances of the Satisfaction they received by that Interview. *Trapaſſa* returned her Thanks with all the grateful Acknowledgments imaginable, for the Trouble and Charge ſhe had been at, and the Goodneſs ſhe had ſhewn in freeing him from the worſt of Slavery. On the other ſide, *Eſtephania* ask'd his Pardon for the Miſchief ſhe had procur'd him, and all the Misfortunes her Malice had Occaſion'd to him; telling him withal, That ſhe could not imagin any other way to Repair the Injury ſhe had done him, but by joyning Hands with him in Matrimony if he lik'd the Propoſal, ſince ſhe had a Daughter already by him, and Wealth enough for both of them to live at their Eaſe.

I leave you to Judge, Whether this Motion was not Pleaſing to *Trapaſſa*, who was ready to catch at the leaſt Offer of Good Fortune, upon his coming out of ſo ſevere a School of Pennance. So that his Anſwer was in renewing his Embraces, ſatisfying her with what Joy he accepted of the advantageous Bargain ſhe Propoſed to him; intreating her to give him an Account

his Daughter, whom he was paſſionately Deſirous to ſee.

Eſtephania, over-joy'd to find his Sentiments ſo Agreeable to her Expectation, preſented him with a noble Riding Suit, which ſhe had purpoſely cauſed to be made for him; and the next Morning betimes they took their Journey towards *Sevil*, where *Trapaſſa* finding his Daughter then about Eight Years old, he acted a part that he had never done before, that is, he was ſolemnly Married to the Lady *Eſtephania* in the Face of the Church. They changed their Lodgings to another Quarter of the City than that where they had formerly dwelt, being reſolved to live another kind of Life than they had done before. For *Eſtephania* believing that the Hardſhip her dear Love had endured in the Gallies, had cured him of ſome of his former Extravagancies, and that the Grey Hairs he had brought from thence, would Reclaim him from his Debaunches. She endeavour'd to procure him ſome Credible Employment in *Sevil*, as well to keep him out of Idleneſs, as that he might thereby bring in ſomething toward Houſe-keeping. But an inbred Diſpoſition which was in *Trapaſſa*, could not eaſily be brought under Diſcipline, and if he had behaved himſelf a while with ſome Reſervedneſs, it proceeded from

Influence of the Admonitions and Rebukes which his Wife continually gave him, and not out of any virtuous Inclination; ſo that through his own Neglect, he could find out no other Buſineſs but frequenting Gaming-Houſes, Play-Houſes, and other vicious places, where thoſe who are Naturally inclined to Sloth, uſually waſte moſt part of their time. This courſe of Life extreamly troubled his Wife; who yet willing to avoid all Matrimonial Diſcontents, wink'd at his Diſorders, and endeavour'd to find ſome Comfort in the Converſation of his Daughter, whoſe Beauty was already become the common Diſcourſe of the City.

Trapoſſa having no ſettled Buſineſs, Idleneſs being the Seminary of all Vices, tempted him to follow his former Courſe of Gaming, the Gulf wherein ſo many fair Eſtates have been ſwallowed up. He began at firſt to Play at ſmall Games, as if for Recreation only, but afterwards venturing ſtill higher, he in a ſhort time took the Opportunity to lay Hands on the Goods of his Wife. She was ſenſible enough, that too many of her things were wanting, and doubted not but her Husband had conveyed them away; but all ſhe could do, was, to weep and bemoan her Misfortune, which ſhe charged upon no body but herſelf. *Trapoſſa* perceiving her ſo much diſturbed, pro-

miſed Reformation, but the curſed Humour of Gaming continuing upon him, his Luck was ſo bad, that he Pawned or Sold every thing of Value in his Houſe. Finding himſelf at length reduced to pinching Neceſſities, he began to Contrive how he might again Retrieve himſelf. He would have been content that his Wife, who was yet Handſome, ſhould have turned Common Proſtitute, tho' ſhe had but juſt Recovered her Reputation; but he perceived ſhe was grown ſo Honeſt, and ſo alter'd from what ſhe had been before, that he had not the Confidence to mention it to her: For ſhe grew ſo extream Melancholly at the Diſorder'd Demeanour of her Husband, that ſhe ſeem'd in a manner careleſs of all things, and little regarded the Education of her Daughter, who was by this time come into the Teens, and by reaſon of theſe Diſtractions between her Parents, liv'd as ſhe pleaſed, appearing every Day at the Window, not with a little Affectation.

The Grief and Regret which poor *Eſtephania* conceived at her being reduced to Penury, brought her into a Sickneſs whereof ſhe Died about a Year after, with a ſincere Repentance for her paſt Follies, in Hopes to Die as Happy a Death, as her Husband had occaſion'd her living an Unhappy Life. She was very meanly Buried,

Trapassa not having wherewithal to bestow much on her Funeral. He was much concerned at her Death, and acknowledged but too late, his great Oversight in returning to his ill Courses; whereas, if he had taken her Advice, he might have lived Pleasantly all the rest of his Days. All the Comfort he had now left, and the Hope on which he depended for a Livelyhood, was the Beauty of his Daughter, which he believ'd so Charming, as might procure him a Son in Law, who would Relieve his Necessities, never considering, that in this Age Riches are commonly preferr'd before Vertue, and that Graces and Perfections have seldom much Power in them, if Wealth be lacking.

The unfortunate *Trapassa*, though oppressed with Miseries, could not forbear frequenting the Gaming Houses, not indeed to play himself, for he had not wherewithal, but to get some small Present from the Gamesters when they had a good Hand, as is usual in *Spain* to be bestowed upon those that look on, and is commonly the only Revenue of those that have Ruin'd themselves by that pernicious Diversion.

Trapassa being seldom at home, it gave his Daughter the greater freedom to follow her own Sentiments. She would be perpetually looking out of the Window, which

[illegible] Donna,
induc'd a great number of Young Gallants to repair to the Street where she dwelt. The Father was not Ignorant how matters went, and though he might have prevented yet winkt at it, in hopes to see his Daughter advantageously Married, to help him out, as being the most likely means to retrieve his Misfortunes. He therefore left the little *Rosina*, so was his Daughter called, to her own Liberty, hoping that by her fortunations, she would in time have the Disposal of the Hearts and Purses of those that Courted her. His Designs proved more successful than he imagined; for among many that Languished for her, there was one very Rich, who was Transported with the Love of her. She assumed the Title of *Donna*, an Honour which belongs only to Persons of Noble Extraction, because her Mother had used it before, and if she had not, her Daughter would have taken it up, as being a Dignity that Costs little or nothing.

The Person who was so remarkably her Servant, was Agent for some Affairs in *Peru*, a Gentleman whose Credit much exceeded his Estate, and was accounted very Rich, belonging to the Ensuring Office in the *Spanish West Indies*, and about 50 Years of Age. Though he was satisfied that his Mistriss had no Fortune, and that he must

alſo maintain her Father; yet he was reſolved to take her for Better for Worſe; from whence we may deduce this Obſervation, That when Love has once taken Poſſeſſion of an Aged Perſon, it is very Difficult to Diſpoſſeſs him. *Laurentia de Saveria*, this Amorous Elder was named, who was ſo inchanted with the *Beauty* of *Roſina*, that the Treaty of Marriage was concluded in leſs than Eight Days, and he had the Earneſt of an Happineſs, which he thought would have laſted him as long as he Lived. He took his Father in Law into his Family: though he knew him to be a great Gameſter. The firſt Days of the Nuptials were ſpent as they uſually are at ſuch Solemnities; he furniſhed his Wife with new Gowns, Rings, and Jewels, ſuitable to his Condition; for being a Perſon pretty well ſtricken in Years, he was no Lover of Exceſs, an Humour not very Pleaſing to *Roſina*, who minded nothing ſo much as rich Cloaths, and Long'd for whatſoever ſhe ſaw worn by Women of a Quality much above her; and this much Cooled her Love to her Husband, who was of an *Indian* Diſpoſition, ſomewhat Covetous, and careful not to Waſte his Eſtate; and being ſenſible that her Father was an Old Gameſter, who had run out all, he durſt not Truſt his Wife with keeping the Cash, nor with the Expences of his Houſe.

This

This Proceeding quite Defeated the Hopes of *Trapassa*, who imagined, that upon this Marriage, he should Command all that was in his Daughter's Power, being still possest with the restless Spirit of Gaming.

Rosina Observing her Husband was Employed about his Affairs, took Occasion to go abroad every Morning, under pretence of going to Church, to Pray that she might be a Mother; with this Excuse she blinded her Husband, the true Motives of these Sallies being to appear in the Streets, and at Mass. A Citizen's Son of *Sevil*, taking notice of her, fell instantly in Love with her, one of the most Debauch'd Young Men of his time; who had reduced himself by his Lewdness, into as bad a Condition almost, as *Trapassa*. His Name was *Ruperio*, a very comely Beau, who proved so Fortunate in Courting *Rosina*, that she was wholly at his Devotion, expecting to receive such Presents from him, as might put her in a Garb agreeable to her Beauty, above what she could obtain from the Miser her Husband.

The first Demand she made to him, was somewhat Modest, considering she was a Merchant's Wife, namely, to bestow on her a Gown of the same Silk and Fashion that a Neighbour of hers had, whom she named, and a Gold Watch for her side, promising

him, in Requital of theſe Favours, not to Deny him any thing that was in her Power. *Roſina*, by his inſolent Boaſtings, imagined that he had Thouſands at Command, and he likewiſe promiſed to Comply with her Deſires; but being unable to perform the ſame, he contriv'd how to get that by his Wit, which his Purſe would not reach to. He happen'd to be well Acquainted with the Lady, whoſe Gown he was to match, and going to her, intreated her to Lend it him; pretending it was only for the Repreſentation of a *Comedy* which was to be acted in a Nunnery. He could not be Denied upon ſuch an Account; ſo that at the end of Three Days, which time he told *Roſina*, it would take up to make it, he ſent it to her Houſe, when her Husband was abroad in the City about his buſineſs. The Watch he told her was not yet finiſh'd, but ſhould ſuddenly be brought her; intreating her in the mean time, to accept of another of leſs Value, as a Pledge for the Security of the other. She returned him Hearty Thanks, extreamly Pleas'd to find he was ſo Punctual, and to ſhew herſelf Grateful, gave him all the Satisfaction he could expect from her.

He took leave of *Roſina*, who intended to Perſuade her Husband, that a Kinſman of hers had ſent her that Gown from *Ma-*

drid

dred, to prevent his being Jealous of her. On the other Hand, *Ruperio* resolved, if possible, to get it again, and return it where it was borrowed. *Savaria* having no knowledge of him, he effected the matter by the following Trick.

Four or Five Days after the delivery of the Gown to *Rosina*, *Ruperio* puts himself into the Habit of a Serving Man, and about Dinner comes to *Savaria*'s House, saying, he was Servant to the Lady to whom the Gown belong'd. *Savaria* order'd him to come in, who told him, he was sent by his Mistress, for the Gown she had Lent Madam *Rosina*, only to see the Fashion of it. *Savaria* turning toward his Wife, ask'd her what Gown the Fellow would have? She presently knew her Gallant: *Friend*, said she, *come hither to Morrow Morning, and you shall have it. But my Mistress*, replies *Ruperio*, *has commanded me not to come back without it; for this Afternnoon she is to go to a Christning, at which she is to be Gossip, and she must needs have it. How shall I know*, cryes she, *that you belong to that Lady, and that you came from her?* The crafty Spark, perceiving what she design'd, and that she had no mind to return it; *The Gown*, said he, *is of such a Colour, trim'd in such a manner, and was sent you in a Green Cloth, done about with a Silk Fringe.* *Savaria* hearing him give such

particular Marks; *Sweet-heart*, said he to his Wife, *You have nothing to reply, for since he demands it with so much earnestness, no question but his Mistress has occasion for it; and if you are unwilling to rise out of your place, give me the Key of your Trunk where it is, and I will fetch it.* *Rosina* had not a Word more to say, but being ready to burst with Indignation, she arose from the Table, took the Gown out of the Trunk, and delivering it to *Ruperio*, *Give my humble Service*, said she, *to Madam* Leonara, *and tell her, I ask her Pardon that I did not send it home sooner, which I could not do, because the Person for whom I borrowed it, was not here since.*

The disguised Gallant received the *Gown*, and left *Rosina* with her Eyes all on Fire, and vext to the Soul to find herself so impudently affronted. *Savario* askt her upon what account she had borrowed it, who answer'd, That it was at the Request of an Acquaintance of hers, who was desirous to have such another, as being extreamly taken with the Colour and Fashion of it. She perswaded her Husband to any thing, who, poor Man, understood little of the World, besides his Trading. In the mean time she was extreamly incensed against *Ruperio*, for the Ungenteel Trick he had put upon her, in depriving her of a Garment she was so pleas'd with, and whereof she thought her-

self indisputably possest. She thereupon resolved to be Revenged on him, whatever it cost her; but thinking to Communicate her Design to her Maid who was her Confident in all her Intrigues, *Trapassa* her Father over heard them, and came to the Knowledge of the whole Story; and being Acquainted with the Gallant, who was one that haunted Gaming Houses, he thought himself Obliged to Revenge the Affront done to his Daughter; and meeting him one Day in the Street, tells him he desired to measure the Length of his Sword, upon what account he should know when he came to the Place. *Rapario* followed him, and being gone so far from the City, that they were out of the People's Sight, *Trapassa* acquainted him with the Occasion of this Challenge. They presently drew, and made several Passes, but at length *Trapassa* proved the more unfortunate, for he was run through the Heart, so that he Died immediately, not having time to make the least act of Contrition; a Judgment usually happening to those who lead such vicious Lives as he had done. *Rapario* took Sanctuary in a Church, and *Trapassa*'s Body was brought to his Son in Law, where it was received with a mixture of Joy and Sorrow; Joy that the House was deliver'd from the most Humoursome and Insupportable Fellow in

he World, and Grief for the future charge of his Interment.

In the mean time *Rosina* made it appear by her Lamentations and Tears, that his death was as great an affliction to her, as it was pleasing to her Husband. She would receive no Consolation, pretending she had lost all her support in this World; for all the Relations and Friends she had were now exchanged for a Husband whom she could not affect. On the other side, *Savaria* thought himself one of the happiest Men in the World, to have a Wife handsome and young as his was; but she was really a little too handsome and too young for him; that proportion of Age, which Parents ought chiefly to mind in marrying their Children, not being observed in this. It cannot be expected, that an old man should be acceptable to a young Girl; and when a Woman comes once to slight her Husband, she is in the way to admit of any Body. But for *Rosina*, the ambition she always had of going highly in Cloaths, and to be revenged of *Ruperto*, made her break forth into all Excesses that exasperated Woman-kind can fall into; to defile her marriage Bed, and absolutely abandon her self to Act all those things from which she hoped to derive any satisfaction or advantage. Nothing so much disquieted her as the in-

jury

[illegible] Rosina,

[illegible] she had received from *Ruperio*, which she thought so great, that she would have died for sorrow, but out of a desire to be [illegible]renged of him. But in regard She must have assistance therein, She took all opportunities to assure her self of a Gallant who would Vigorously execute her Commands.

One of those Fridays, which are solemnis'd with a great concourse of People from Easter to Whitsuntide, in *Triana*, part of the Suburbs of *Sevil*, thro' which passes the *Guadalquivir*, the most famous River in *Andalusia*. *Rosina* went into a Boat covered with Branches to go and see that Festival, to which she was carried by the express Order of her Husband, by a Neighbour of his whom he thought one of the most discreet and Virtuous Women in the World; but he was not the first Man who has been deceived in a Woman; for on the contrary She was one of the most Wanton, and withal the most Silly of the whole Sex. She therefore took up a Boat for herself, *Rosina*, and two Women more of their acquaintance; but though she had given the Watermen his full Fare; yet she was easily persuaded by him to take other Persons into the Boat, and among them a Young Man who had his Spies at the water side to give him notice of such an opportunity. They were no sooner come aboard, but [illegible]

unveiled

unvailed her Face, which the Gallant, whom we will call *Felicius*, had no sooner seen but he was surprized with her Beauty; and thought her so extream handsome that he persuaded some of his Friends who stood on the River side to come into the Boat, and to effect it greased the Waterman's Fist. Being all got in, *Felicius* took his place next to *Rosina*, into whose favour it was his design to insinuate himself. He was Son to a Person of Quality, who had raised himself to a vast Fortune in the *Indies*, and had no Child but this; who disposing of his wealth as he pleased; it was to be seen that it would not be long ere he scattered abroad what his Father had not in so short a time raked together. For he was a profuse Gamester, a perpetual Courter of Ladies, and maintained a Crew of Hangers on, who accompanied and encouraged him in his Debauches. Besides these admirable Qualities, he was extreamly extravagant in point of Cloaths, a Vice common in Young Men at *Sevil*, who have all things at their own disposal as he had.

Being seated near *Rosina*, and his Comerades next to her the Friends, the Boat went leasurely down the River, for which the Waterman had consideration. *Felicius* was resolved to lose no time, but declare his Love to *Rosina*, in such obliging Terms that

[illegible]

she gave intire Credit to what he said, and by her attention satisfied him that she was not displeased with his Company. *Felician* was a very ingenious Person, and of a complaisant humour upon such occasions as these, expressing himself with such a Grace and smartness, that the Ladies were exceedingly pleased, especially *Rosina*, who thought nothing comparable to his Conversation. She told him her Name, the place where she Lived, what Profession her Husband was of; and in a word made him a kind of Confession of her most secret Affairs. *Felician* was as free to her, concluding his discourse with a Thousand Protestations of service and obedience to her commands. The afternoon passed away in Compliments and Courtship, to the great satisfaction of *Rosina*, who had two designs to carry on at the same time; One to be reveng'd on *Ruperia* by the assistance of *Felician*, and the other to wheedle out of him some Money towards new Cloaths and her other extravagant expences, and she succeeded in both her Projects.

From that day *Felician* began to frequent the street where *Rosina* dwelt, especially when he had Intelligence that her Husband was abroad about his Concerns. *Rosina* on the other side resolved not to comply easily; for remembring how she

ha

had been put upon by *Ruperia*, She was Jea-
ous of having the same Game play'd over
again with her. Before she admitted him
entrance into the House, she resolved to
make Tryal of his Liberality. Of this she
was in a short time pretty well informed;
for *Felician* having been Prodigal all his
life, he upon this occasion exceeded all he
had done before, sending her Presents of
rich Cloaths, Jewels, and other Ornaments,
besides the Expence he was at in Treats
and *Collations* when they met privately toge-
ther as they often did; so that *Rosina* was
the most satisfied Woman in the World.
'Tis commonly said, that the more easily a
Man attains his enjoyments the sooner he
is surfeited with them; but it was other-
wise with *Felician*, whose affection to *Rosina*
increased daily, and came to that heighth
that it could not well be greater.

It happened about this time, that *Ruperia*
gained in one Night Six hundred Crowns
at Play. He always went very fine; but this
unexpected good Fortune made him ex-
ceed his former Gaudiness. But with this
good he fancied he had likewise ill Fortune
coming told that *Felician* was often seen in
the Street where *Rosina* lived; from whence
he infer'd, that he made some Addresses to
her. This Jealousy began to revive the
love he formerly had for her, and he was

disturbed that he should have any Riva
Hereupon he resolved if possible to recov
her favour, and requite the Injury he w
sensible he had done her. Upon this a
count he passed several times through t
same street, which caused no little pe
plexity to *Felician*.

Rosina was enraged to see the Impost
had the Impudence to make any pretensio
to her favour after the notorious Sham
had put upon her. She consider'd the
was no other way to be rid of his impo
tunities, but to engage her beloved Galla
Felician in her quarrel, by perswading hi
that *Ruperio*'s design was to break off t
happy Correspondence, and Affection th
there was between them; So that if he h
any value for her Love, he ought to fi
out some means to check the Insolence
his Rival, and free her from his Courtshi
which was odious to her. Observe he
what dangerous service Women put the
Gallants upon, setting them on like Gam
Cocks till they have destroyed one anothe

Rosina thought it not prudence to a
quaint *Felician* with what had pass'd b
tween her and *Ruperio*, but took a sa
course, telling him that he was continual
soliciting her with very advantagious pr
fers, which yet for his sake she absolute
refused and slighted. *Felician* believed he

e rather because he met him every day, nd sometimes in the night, walking the ounds about his Mistress house. To in-ense him the more, she added, that were it ot for that troublesome Person she would e him oftner than she did. There needs o more to be said, *Felician* enflamed with pight, met *Ruperio* one Night in that reet, when he knew *Rosina* was in Bed, nd her Husband looking over some ac-ounts which Concerned his Agency. *Fe-cian* perceiving *Ruperio* called him by his ame, and having talked a while together o avoid being discovered by making any uarrel in the streets, they retired into a ttle Ally which happened to be near the indow of the room where *Savaria* kept all is Papers, and was then very busy in pe-using them; Being come thither, *Felician* ns discourses the other.

Signior Ruperio, *I have for some days pass'd served that you have frequented this street ore than you ought to have done, and I was mewhat at a loss to Know what might occasion ur coming hither, in regard there are several ne Ladies which might incline you thereto; ut I have at last discovered that Madam Ro-na only is the cause of your daily and nightly daunts hereabouts; and this I am assured of by y own Eyes, as well as the relation of her Ser-ants, whom you endeavour to corrupt by pre-*

sents to bring you into their Lady's Favour. have been her Servant for some time, and t Services I have done her have gained me her a fection; So that I have received the greate kindness from her which I could expect, or c could give. I do not usually boast of my go Fortune in such Cases; but to prevent your fa ther Progress in this matter I am compelled t make you this particular discovery; which doubt not but you will conceal as a great secret as a Person of Honour ought to do. I have ac quainted you with my Love, and the advantag I have made of it to oblige you to forbear all ap plications to this Lady for the future; whereb you will secure your self from many inconvenien cies, and free me from the Resentments which present Affect me.

Ruperio hearkned attentively to the di course of *Felician*, and *Rosina's* Husband n less, hearing accidently such things as f nearly concerned him, which though the were extreamly prejudicial to him and hi Reputation, yet he was resolved to sta and here what Answer *Ruperio* would make which was to this effect.

Signior Felician, *I do not at all wonder tha you should be so Solicitous in observing the dev tion I had for Madam* Rosina, *since your art concerned in it as you affirm to me, and suppose you will be as little surprized at my b ing Embarked in the same design, since I sa*

...u are ignorant of the grounds of my Love and the Reason I have to prosecute it, I am as willing as you to proclaim the Favours I receive from Ladies, but since you unbosome your self to me, I conceive I am obliged to do the like to you, that you may think my proceeding the less strange; I was in the Lady's favour before you, and obtain'd the same thing of her that you so much glory in; By some misfortune or other I have lost it; yet not so, but that I hope in time to Reinstate my self into it again; which to accomplish assure your self I shall do all that lyes in my power. If I prevail, and that she will admit the continuance of my service, as I have hopes she may, your only remedy is Patience; for I am so far from quitting my pretensions to her, that I shall do my utmost to prevent her giving entertainment to yours, and reduce her to such a pass, as not so much as to remember that ever you thought of her.

With that they both drew, *Felician* maintaining that he only ought to pretend to her, and *Ruperio* standing upon the same Terms. The dispute was soon ended, his Sword who was in present possession, was the most fortunate, *Ruperio* by a mortal wound falling dead upon the place. The noise of their Swords was not very great, for *Felician* had done his work so suddenly that none heard any thing of the quarrel but only *Severia*, who for his own re-

tation would have kept it ſecret. That the body might not be found in that place, *Felician* took it on his ſhoulders, and laid it at the Gate of a Monaſtry, and took refuge in another, till he heard how matters would go.

Savaria confounded at what he had ſeen and heard, was ſo enraged againſt his Wife that he began to contrive how to be Reveng'd of a Woman, whoſe perfidiouſneſs was the more Notorious, becauſe of the great reaſon ſhe had to be Grateful and Loyal. She was faſt aſleep in bed, never dreaming what had happened in the ſtreet upon her account. The firſt thing that came into *Savaria's* thoughts was to go up inſtantly and diſpatch her in bed with a dagger; but he then conſidered that the murtherer having carried away the dead Body from his door, he might be charg'd with Killing her without any cauſe, and that he ſhould want proof, as having for Witneſſes only two Servant Maids, who were more likely to ſwear againſt him. He therefore reſolved as the ſureſt way, to rid himſelf of her by a ſecret Doſe of Poyſon which might remove her after a certain time; but then he thought he ſhould not ſatisfy his own juſt Reſentments if he any longer delay'd that vengeance which required immediate execution. He then pro-

poſed

posed to himself another Expedient, which was to leave both the City and his Wife, and to retire to some other place, but this design was soon over, he having many Affairs undetermined; and fearing the Sinister opinions which might have been made upon such a Resolution, to the Scandal and Shame of a man of his Age and reputation.

This Reflection brought him to his first design of sending her going with the Portyard. But before he perpetrated that cruelty, which yet according to *Spanish* Justice, was no Crime, but a just punishment for her Lewdness, he judged it necessary for his own Vindication, to leave in Writing the reasons that induced him to commit this Fact. He took Pen and Paper and began to set down the affront he had received from his Wife, and the satisfaction he had taken; but upon reading it, imagining he had not sufficiently exposed the heinousness of her Fault, he tore what he had written and this he did to the third time, so great was the disturbance and confusion of his thoughts. He set himself down to Write the Fourth time, but upon second thoughts was of opinion that he should be sufficiently aveng'd if he had but once sent his Wife out of the World. A great part of the night wasted in these disquiets, namely in Writing, Correcting

and Tearing all he had Written. At length being absolutely resolved in that fancy to prosecute his design, he made another Writing without any blot, having before well considered what he should set down; and when he had exprest in the best manner he could, the irreparable injury he had received, he was suddenly seiz'd with so pressing a grief that he fell down and expired.

All this pass'd while *Rosina* slept. Awaking of a sudden and not finding her Husband in bed with her, She called him, but hearing no answer, she slipt on her Gown and went into his Closet, where she found a Candle lighted, and *Savaria* lying on the Floor dead. She was astonisht, as well she might; all she could do was to call up her Maids, who immediately came to the Sight of this strange Spectacle; they were no less surpriz'd than their Mistress at the strangeness of this Accident. As they were going to convey the Corps to one of the best Rooms in the House, before the neighbours had any notice of the adventure, *Rosina* found a written Paper which seem'd not to be quite finish'd, wherein she found these words.

'That my Justification may be the better known to all those who shall read this 'Paper, I declare that all my unhappiness 'proceeds from the Lightness and Incon-

'stancy

'stancy of my infamous Wife, who pro-
'faning the holy Sacrament of Marriage,
'by the Sacred Bond whereof we were
'joined together in the Face of the Church,
'without any consideration of the true
'Love and affection I had for her, hath
'prostituted her self to two Gallants at
'the same time, who having quarrel'd for
'the precedency which either of them pre-
'tended to have over his Adversary, the
'more unfortunate was killed by the other
'before the Window of my House. Ha-
'ving thus been witness of my own dis-
'grace, and heard the whole Story of my
'dishonour, it was but just I should re-
'venge my disgrace, thus ——— Here
ended the writing, for death seizing him at
that word he instantly gave up the Ghost.

Rosina was ev'n distracted with what she Saw and Read; So that for some time she was deprived of her Senses, upon reflecting that generally the greatest secrets of Debauchery are discovered at last, either by Reformation or Punishment of the Actors. The Death of her Husband afflicted her both with fear and grief; Fear to consider how suddenly he died, occasioned by the wrong she had done him; Grief, to see her Husband deprived of Life, and her [illegible] ignorant how to represent so unhappy [illegible] Accident. A little Remorse of mind, [illegible]

a qualm over her Stomach, troubled her that she had been so perfidious to a man who had loved her so well, and by marriage had raised her from beggary to plenty. The great kindness which the neighbours were sensible he always had for her, gave her a little Relief, and induced her to take the Advice of one of her Maids; which was to carry her Husband's body into his bed, and to cry out the next morning so loud that they might hear her; whom by her excessive Lamentations she might persuade that she found him dead by her side when she waked in the morning; and that her two Maids to carry on the Cheat, should give out, that their Master was subject to an Apoplexy, and died suddenly thereof.

Having thus concerted their design, day came, *Rosina* cried out, and lamented with all her might; the next Neighbours coming in found her undressed, weeping, and tearing her hair like one absolutely deprived of her Wits for the loss of so tender an Husband. Her two Maids acted their parts to the Life; relating the cause of their good Master's death. All were satisfied with these reasons; and some of *Rosina*'s acquaintance were very busy about her for fear she should have swooned, so perfectly did she personate a disconsolate Widow. They use their utmost endeavours to comfort her,

and

nd allay her Sorrow, who amidst all her rouble took care to burn the Paper she had ound, lest it might have proved an Evi- ence of her disloyalty.

Some Officers sent by the Magistrates ame soon after to her House, who are ne- er wanting upon such occasions, and upon he Allegations of the Neighbours, that the Deceased had ever lived very Lovingly with his Wife, went away, being satisfied hat she not any way contributed to his leath. *Savaria* was buried, and *Rosina* found t so difficult to act the part she was enga- ged in, that she did not think of taking care bout that which Widows are commonly very sollicitous about at such times, that is o make the best provision they can for hemselves out of what their Husbands have eft behind them. So that one of his Ne- phews, as soon as the Uncle was buried, seiz'd on all that was in the House, and *Ro- sina* was forced to go to Law with him to re- cover what she might lawfully lay claim to.

Let us return to see what became of *Ru- perio's* Body. Being found in the morning by the Monks of that Monastry, and not known by any of them, they designed to bury it without Ceremony, had they not been prevented by a Citizen, who advised them to expose it in some publick place that it might be owned, and that if the Per-

son had any Relations, they might kno
the misfortune that had happened to hi
and by this means they would secure
themselves the charge of his Interme
and the Fees for other Prayers and Devo
tions, in order to the repose of his Sou
This Advice pleased the Superiour of th
Convent, who immediately acquainted th
Magistrate, that they had found in the mor
ning a Young Man dead at their Churc
door. The Body was laid in a little plac
nigh the Monastry, with two lighted wa
Candles; and soon after a Man passed b
who knew *Ruperio*, He told them what h
was, and then went and carried the sad new
to his friends, who were extreamly greiv
at his death, his Father having often fore-
told, him that he would come to such
an end; for, from the Life he led, nothing
less could be expected. He was buried in
the Cloyster, and strict search made for the
murtherer; but *Sevil* being a vast and po-
pulous City, no discovery could be made of
him, only *Rosina* knew who it was by the
absence of her Gallant, by *Ruperio's* death,
and by the Paper she found in her Husband's
Closet; and was extreamly pleased to see
herself Revenged of a Person who had put
such an unhandsome Trick upon her; and
it was her good fortune that no notice was
taken of the blood of the deceased in the
place

lace where he was killed; had the Ma-
iſtrate known of that, it might have
rought her into ſome trouble, for the
Neighbours could have teſtifi'd that they
ad often ſeen theſe two Rivals in that
treet.

Roſina is now become a Widow, but with-
l poor and deſtitute of all accommoda-
ions, having only the ſtock of her beauty
eſt to ſet her up again; and that toge-
her with her honour, if it may be ſaid ſhe
ad any remaining, She reſolved to proſti-
ute, thereby to live in ſome meaſure ſuita-
le to what ſhe had done before. *Savaria's*
Nephew, who had taken poſſeſſion of his Eſ-
ate, was obliged to pay ſomething upon
he account of her Dower, but it was ſo
nconſiderable, compared to the Port ſhe
as wont to bear, that ſhe was forced to
eave her houſe, and take one of a lower
ent; Nor had this Nephew what he ex-
ected by being Heir to his Uncle, for his
ſtate was extreamly intangled, ſo that af-
r paying the Creditors, he had little left
r himſelf.

Roſina removed to another Quarter of the
ty, and being rich in Cloaths, and really
andſome, did not as many other Widows
mmonly do, who as ſoon as their Hus-
nds are marched off, dreſs themſelves as
e as hands can make them, and take all

Opportunities to shew themselves to Gentlemen, out of a design to get other Husbands. But she though young had gained such great Experience, that she resolved to play another Game, and that no small one.

There was come in the Fleet from *Peru* in the *West-Indies*, a Person born among the mountains of *Leon*, who began his fortune in the Station of a Servant to a Merchant at *Sevil*, and upon his Master's Credit and some little Trading into the *Indies*, was grown very Rich, and in a few years was reckoned one of the ablest Merchants that Traded at *Peru*. He at length made a Voyage thither, being advanced to a certain employment, and having thereby much increased his Wealth he returned again to *Sevil* in that years Fleet, where he Sold the Cargo he had brought home at Cent per Cent profit, so fortunate was he in all his Adventures.

Marquina was his Name, a Person about 50 years Old, the most covetous Miser living, grudging himself his Victuals and Cloaths although mean enough, nay Fasted many times to save his Money. He kept no more Servants than he had occasion for, namely a Factor, a Lacquey, and a Moor-Slave who lookt to his Mule, and a Maid to dress his pitiful Victuals. He kept his Family so short of provisions that people won-

dred

ntle- red any would ſerve him; His wretched
ands humour was the diſcourſe of the whole Ci-
grea- y; which another would have been asha-
ano- ed of, but he only laughed at it, applau-
ing himſelf, and making it his whole buſi-
Per- eſs to heap up wealth, whereof he had a-
g the undance.

tune *Roſina* having this account of him, began
hant o conſider all the circumſtances, and ha-
and ing reflected thereon, concluded that he
was ight be made an excellent Cully, whom if
was er Beauty could ſmite, as ſhe hop'd and
that xpected it might, her Condition would be
Voy- etter than ever it had been. *Marquina*
em- welt without the City in a little Tenement
in- e had got of one who owed him ſome mo-
n to ey, which he knew not well how to get in
the herwiſe; for he was naturally ſo great a
per ave to his profit that he little minded his
l his leaſures; ſo that this little neat houſe
ame to him at an eaſy Rate and in ſatis-
bout ction for his Debt, and ſtood near St. *Ber-*
r li- *ard's* Monaſtry in the midſt of a pleaſant
and alley. He retired hither out of the City
ſted or Cheapneſs, but had ſo fortified it that
kept e made it as ſtrong as a Goal; inſomuch
for at no thieves either by night or day could
oor ake any breach into it; all the doors
d to ere of an extraordinary thickneſs; the
Fa- indows were ſecur'd with Iron Bars and
ons rates, and the Walls very high and ſtrong.
ired

Within

Within he secured himself with Fire Arms, which he always kept Charged, Halberts and Partisans being likewise placed near the Gates. He was obliged to take one Person more into his Retinue, that is a Fellow to order his Garden, and to make the best advantage of it he could, a married Man, who should carry the Herbs and Fruits to Market to Sell; Such improvement did his Covetousness make of all things. His Treasure was disposed into a certain secret place behind his bed, where he himself lay, in strong Iron Chests; and every night before he slept, like an over-busy Constable, he made strict search in all the rooms of the House. Thus did this wretched Fellow live, though he had no Children to succeed him, for he had not been married, nor never intended it, though very advantageous Matches were dayly proffered him.

Rosina had a design to bring this Covetous Merchant into a noose, and to effect it she communicated the project to a Person who was a great proficient in such Affairs, and an antient acquaintance of her Father's Signior *Trapassa*. This man had acted some Cheats at *Madrid*, which occasioned him to remove to *Cadiz*, where his ill practices caused his departure from thence to *Sevil*, where he went lurking up and down, and spending some Money which cost him more he

zard than pains to get. He was one of the most accomplisht Persons in point of Thieving of any of his time, but very fearful of falling into the hands of Justice, least some of his former Offences should rise up in Judgment against him: which were such as had prefer'd him to the Gallies, where he had made an acquaintance with *Trapassa*, and continued it at *Sevil*. This Man whose name was *Garray*, *Rosina* took to assist her in compassing her intrigues. Having instructed him in what he had to do, She told him that *Marquina* did not usually return home to his House till about Sunset; and so both of them contrived to pass by his Garden, he on a Mule and she on a good Horse; having put off her mourning and put on another Dress with a Hat and Feather, as the *Sevil* Ladies are used to be equipt, when they are in the Country.

They passed by the Garden just as the Gardner was opening the door. *Garay* coming up to him, 'Friend, said he, here is a 'Lady would not willingly go into the City to 'Day, if you will afford her entertainment this 'night I will satisfy you according to your desire, 'besides that, you will do us an extraordinary 'kindness, for you will thereby prevent a great 'misfortune which we cannot otherwise avoid. The Gardner, who was afraid of his Master's displeasure, told him he durst not

so bold as to receive any Person into his House without his knowledge, though he had not expresly forbidden him the doing of any such thing. But *Garay*, who knew the value and power of money, took some out of his pocket, with which *Rosina* had furnisht him, and offering it to the Gardner, Here Friend, said he, take this in earnest of more. The Gardner's Wife longing to know what business they might have with her Husband, comes up to him, and seeing the proffers were made him, undertook to Lodge the Gentlewoman in her own Room, assuring her Husband their Master should never know it, in regard their Rooms were at some distance from his. Briefly, the Wives argument prevailed, so that the Gardner was content the Lady should lodge secretly that night in his house upon the Receipt of Six Rials, which *Garay* gave him as an earnest of a greater Sum. He therefore took *Rosina* off her Horse, and brought her into the Garden, where she took leave of *Garay*, who had already received the Orders, whereof we shall give an account hereafter.

Being come into the Gardner's Room she took off what covered her face; and astonished the Gardner and his wife, at the sight of her beauty, though she seemed to be very melancholly, as if some great misfortune

fortune had befallen her, namely, that which she had got by heart, and designed to relate to *Marquina*, in case she should come to the speech of him. The Sun was hardly set when he came into the Garden, the Negro entring a while before to open the door, which he himself lock'd on the inside, and carried the Key with him. He chanc'd to be that night a little more weary than ordinary, which occasioned his going to bed betimes, after he had eaten some of his Garden Fruits, with a piece of Bread, and wash'd them down with a glass of spring water. He only visited that Part of the House where he lodged himself, and came not to the Gardner's, which commonly escaped not his privy search when he thought of it. His Family, which kept more Fasting-days than ever the Church appointed, Supp'd that night very soberly in imitation of their Master.

Marquina got up in the Morning betimes, and gave his slave Money to go to Market, while he went about his affairs in the City, with order to get Dinner ready against his return. *Rosina* was at a loss how to compass her design, things not happening according to her expectation; but still waiting for an opportunity, She told her Entertainess that she was extreamly troubled at her Uncle's stay, as she called *Garay*, and

that

that her melancholly was upon that account, though the Gardner's wife, who was a good hearty Woman, found her all the diversion she could.

Marquina came home at noon, intending to dine in his Garden; but before he sat down, he would needs take a turn about it, to see if any thing were amiss, and observing some Knots that wanted boards to keep them in order, he went to the Gardner's to see if he could find any fit for his purpose. The Gardner's wife perceiving him coming, in all haste thrust *Rosina* into a little back Room, where she her self was wont to lye; yet could not do it so suddenly, but that *Marquina* coming in, heard the Ruffling of the Silk, and saw the shadow of *Rosina*. He steps into the Room where she was, and led her out by the hand; Coming into the light, he was surprized at her handsomeness. The Gardner's Wife wondred that her Master instead of chiding her, as she expected, only ask'd her who the Lady was; she replyed, that the Night before passing by her door, with an antient Gentleman, who seemed as sorrowful as her self, they had very earnestly intreated she might Lodge there but that night, to avoid a great misfortune that would have happened to them, if they had gone any further.

While

While the Gardner's Wife was giving *Marquina* this account, he very Attentively considered the Strange Lady, who seem'd to be extreamly troubled in mind, which added to the Attractions of her Beauty.

Marquina was so enchanted therewith, that discarding his unsociable and covetous humour, he told the Gardner's Wife, that he had done well in entertaining the Lady, though without his Orders, which in such a case were not to be observed, where Compassion and Charity plead for the relief of those that are in Trouble; *This Lady, said he, deserves a better Reception than she found in your poor Lodgings, I therefore proffer her the use of my House, if she will honour it with her presence.* *Rosina* return'd many thanks for his Civility, and intreated him to allow her the privacy of some other Lodging, for the little time she had to stay there; in regard she expected an Uncle of hers, to come and fetch her away that night.

Marquina, who began to be inflamed, was sorry to hear, that her stay would be so Short; Yet, told her that though it were but for an hour, she would extreamly oblige him in accepting the offer he made her, with so much real affection. She who expected this Event all the while

answered

answered, that to make some returns f
such great obligations, she was ready
wait on him.

Hereupon she went to *Marquina's* A
partment, whither he led her by the han
to the great satisfaction of the Gardner
Wife, who admired to see her Master,
contrary to his Nature, in such a pleasa
complaisant humour. As she pass'd throug
the Rooms, she took particular notice
all things; for though *Marquina* was of
very covetous temper, yet he seemed pr
digal in the Furniture of his House, whic
was adorned with very rich Tapestry
Chairs Suitable thereto, Cabinets of Ivo
and Ebony, and many other Rarit
brought from the *West-Indies*, which thoug
they cost not much there, yet are high
valued in *Europe*. He instantly comman
ed his Slave to prepare a sumptuous Di
ner, an employment he undertook wi
great chearfulness, as knowing he shou
fare well by this extraordinary Liberali
of his Master. *Rosina* Dined with him, wh
Treated her all the while with the be
the Table afforded, making many excu
ses that he had no better for her.

After Dinner he conducted her into
Room, beautified with a great number
Curious Pictures, and a noble Bed of em
broidered Velvet, intreated her to repo
he

herſelf thereon, according to the *Spaniſh* Cuſtom after they have Dined, by reaſon of the heat of the Country. He likewiſe intreated her to give ſome remiſſion to her Grief, ſince ſhe might be aſſured, that he ſhould be as ſafe in his Houſe as in any Sanctuary, and that ſhe ſhould want nothing which was in his power. She again returned her moſt affectionate thanks, and complying with his deſire, ſtayed alone in the Room where *Marquina* ſlept every day. He went into another, where he laid himſelf down, much diſquieted, as being fallen deeply in love with his fair Gueſt, contriving how he might induce her to grant his deſire, which if he could effect, he thought he ſhould be the happieſt Man in the World. Before he acquainted her with his deſign, he was deſirous to know the cauſe of her diſcompoſure, and what might occaſion her ſtopping at his Garden, that he might thereby diſcover whether there were any obſtructions that might hinder the accompliſhment thereof. He waited till ſhe was awake; who ſlept not at all, but lay conſidering what anſwer ſhe ſhould make when he came to queſtion her. *Marquina* thinking it was now time to ſpeak to her, in order to the ſatisfaction of his Curioſity, goes into her Chamber, telling her it was a cloudy day, and he

was afraid she might have over-slept herself, humbly asking pardon for presuming to come into her Apartment. She made him many acknowledgements for the Tenderness he shewed for her health, assuring him, that she could have no Refreshment, the trouble she was in not permitting her to take any rest. He intreated her no longer to conceal the cause of her disquiet, and renewed the offers he had made to serve her to the utmost of his ability. Having returned him thanks, and thinking it was now time to make some progress in her Plot, she gave him the following Relation of her Adventures.

Granada, *One of the most Famous and Eminent Cities in* Spain *is the place of my Birth. My Parents, whom it is not material to name, are of the most Antient and Noble Families in all the Mountains of old* Castile, *and the whole Issue of their Matrimony, was only a Brother of mine and my self. My Brother spent the youthful part of his Life in Courting of Ladies, and among other young Persons like himself, plaid some lewd Pranks, which obliged him, for fear of falling into the hands of Justice, to absent himself from* Granada. *As for my Part, I made it my business, to serve and honour those who had brought me into the World. I employed the day at my Needle, not taking example from my Companions, who only mind-*

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their Divertisement. Nay, I was so ig-
rant of what Love meant, that I laugh'd at
atever related thereto, and thought those that
sted their time in Courtships, and entertai-
ng those they called their Gallants, little bet-
than so many Distracted Persons. But Love
seems would punish this Contempt of mine,
d you shall hear in what manner.

My Father and Mother being one day go-
to visit a Friend of theirs in the Country,
o had Buried his Wife not long before, I heard
the street the clashing of Swords, as if some
ntlemen were a Fighting; I looked out of
e Window to see what was the matter; I had
ver been guilty of such a Curiosity before,
d it was my unhappiness that I did not avoid
then; for I should not now be relating my
sfortunes, which are such that I never re-
mber them without Tears. I there saw to
sorrow, three Men with their Swords drawn
hting against one, who defended himself
h so much Courage, that he not only made
s Party good a long time against so many E-
mies, but also wounded two of them in the
ead, he himself having received only a
ght hurt. These three Bullies finding them-
ves so warmly attackt by one Person, resol-
d to do their utmost to dispatch him; So
t exasperated by their Wounds and the dis-
ace, they pres'd him so hard that he was for-
d to retreat into one of our Gates, where

they gave him two several thrusts into the Breast; upon which he fell, and was left for dead. Moved with Compassion to see such a gallant young Man so disadvantagiously assaulted, I came down to the Gate, calling my Maids about me to see what might be done for his relief, our House being in an obscure street and very few appearing at the noise we made and those unarmed, so that they were unable to part them. We brought the young Man in, locked the doors, and a Surgeon was instantly called. His wounds were so desperate, that we thought best to put him to Bed in a ground Room where my Brother used to lye.

The young Man thanked me very Civilly for this Favour, but alas! that good Office begun in Compassion, ended in Love. The Surgeon viewed his wounds, but could not at present give any certain Judgment of them, though he whispered me in the ear that he judged them mortal. This word struck me to the heart, for having seen him fight so Valiantly, I must needs acknowledge that I had an inclination for him; but his kind expressions afterwards, his gentele manner of acknowledging my Kindness, and the obligations I had laid upon him, raised it into a perfect Love. My Father and Mother returned from their Visit, and before they came home, were told by one of their Neighbours what had happened to a Person of Quality in their absence, and that I put a period to

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the Quarrel he had with three Bravo's, by receiving the wounded Party into their House out of Charity, to prevent his being murthered by his Enemies. When they saw the young Gentleman they commended the charitable office I had done in such an extremity, they being Persons who embraced all opportunities to exercise their kindness to the distressed. They bid the young Man take heart, assuring him he should want nothing the House could afford. Upon which I spent most of my time in waiting on him who was afterward the cause of all the Troubles and Afflictions that now lie so heavy upon me. At the second Dressing the Surgeon assured me his wounds were not dangerous, which [illegible] much joy in our [illegible], but to me in particular, who became every day more passionately in Love with him. As often as I could get out of my Father's Sight, I went to pass away the time in his Chamber, for which favour he made me extraordinary acknowledgments.

This young Cavalier was Born at Pampelona, and one of the most eminent persons in the City. His business at Granada was to prosecute a Law Suit against a very powerful Person, who finding little Justice on his side in a cause of great importance, and tho' he made Interest in Court, the Judges must pass sentence against him, would put a period to the Suit the surest way, and rid himself of his Adversary, by employing three of his own Menial Servants to

Murder him. It was a month before Leonardo (so was the wounded Man called,) got out of his bed, having all that time been attended by me with the greatest Tenderness and Care. The second day after his getting up, he had the opportunity to discourse with me; for my Mother was gone abroad upon a Visit, wherein I did not accompany her, having more mind to stay at home with my young Gallant. He discovered his Sentiments to me so warmly, and gave me such assurances of his affection, that it raised no less Love in me towards him; insomuch that there pass'd mutual promises of Fidelity between us. All this while I knew nothing [illegible] then upon a Treaty of Marriage between me and a Gentleman of Granada, who was exceeding desirous to enter into our Alliance, while I was very well satisfied with the Choice I my self had made. Leonardo coming to hear the Pretensions the other made to me, was not a little Concerned, but the only remedy was patience, in regard he would make no discovery of his Estate, till the Law-Suit was ended, which he hoped would shortly be, and I in the mean time endeavoured to perswade my Father not to be over-hasty in concluding my Marriage with the Granadine.

Leonardo being perfectly cured, and requiting the kindness, and handsome entertainment he had received at our House, with many considerable Presents, returned to his own Quar-

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ters, to bring the business to a final end. For my part, my troubles increased more upon me, for my Father never giving me any notice of it, as if I had been a Person not at all concerned, concluded the contract with the Granadine, and gave him his word he should marry me; when I came to understand it, I was so disturbed in my mind, that I regarded nothing I was about; this new Servant of mine, who expected e're long to be my Master, came to give me a Visit, but was soon satisfied that he had reckoned without his Hostess: for having flattered himself into a foolish imagination that he should have found the Kindest Reception in the world from me, he met with such a Repulse, that he concluded it must rather proceed from an Aversion, than any indifference I had for him. And knowing the wounded Leonardo had some time lodged in our House, he presumed my disdain of him, proceeded from the Love I had for that Gentleman. The Jealousy which he conceived upon this presumption, induced him to make Trial of all the ways he could imagine to be assured of it, so that he might not do anything whereof he should afterwards repent; Which if all hot Spirits would consider, it might prevent many groundless Quarrels. I was in an extraordinary perplexity during these Transactions. I acquainted Leonardo with my Condition, who came to see me that night, and at length we agreed that I should leave my Father's

House the night following, and go to some of his Relations, where we might be secretly married.

The expected hour being come, Unhappy hour to me, considering the many misfortunes I have suffered since; as my Dearest and I were going out of the House, and crossing another street, we met my Jealous Servant, who had spent some nights to discover what he now found too true. He presently knew us, and being attended by his Servants, fell upon Leonardo, *never thinking of any such surprise. So that before he had time to draw his Sword, he received three mortal wounds, and fell down dead, without speaking a Word. The noise the Murtherers made, occasioned the Neighbours to come out with their Lights, upon the appearance whereof they retired to prevent being discovered. By this time there was a great stir at my Father's, for my being missed; while I was in a manner dead to see my Love lying breathless at my Feet. Being a little recovered, I thought it not convenient to stay in the street after such an Accident, so I went in all haste, to a Friend's House of my Father's, an aged Person, and very poor, to whom I related what had befallen me, and how much it concerned me not to stay any longer at* Granada; *whereupon getting a Horse, he mounted me thereon, and brought me to the next Village, where he got another, and came from thence hither to avoid the fury of my*

my Father, who accompanied by Officers, makes a ſearch after me, as I have underſtood by the way. For that reaſon I thought it not ſafe for us to go into Sevil *as ſoon as we came hither, but that I had better conceal my ſelf in ſome place near it. It was the pleaſure of Fortune to direct me to this Habitation of yours, into which upon my extraordinary Intreaties, your Gardner ventured to receive me this laſt night. Thus, Sir, you have the ſtory of a wretched Maid, if there ever was any; whoſe only Comfort now is in the kind entertainment you are pleaſed to afford me, and I doubt not but your Charity will be requited, ſince there can be none more greater than to Relieve ſuch as are Afflicted, and perſecuted in that deplorable manner as I am.*

This Romantick diſmal Tale which *Roſina* had invented, and got by heart, was concluded with a ſhower of *Crocodile* Tears, which raiſed ſuch Compaſſion in *Marquina*, that he himſelf could not forbear weeping. The Subtile Cheat perceiving that he gave Credit to her Feigned Story, and that Love began to enter at the breach, which compaſſion had made in his heart, was encouraged to proſecute her deſign, which ſhe now ſeemed almoſt confident to bring to effect. They continued ſome time together, ſhe Sobbing and Crying as if it had been for a Wager, and he uſing

his utmoſt endeavours to comfort her; which yet came not up to the height of propoſing a Remedy, as ſhe could have wiſh'd, for he had not yet abandoned his covetous humour.

Having with much niceneſs, and attention, conſidered the great beauty of *Roſina*, with her Afflictions and ſtrange Adventures, he concluded that this happineſs was as it were fallen into his mouth, as a ſignal addition to his former proſperity. This was the firſt time that ever Love attackt *Marquina's* heart, and therefore acted more violently; Is *Marquina* fallen in Love? He muſt needs then be Liberal. Hath he entertained *Roſina* into his Houſe? That kindneſs will be the deareſt to him that ever he had. O Love, what diſpoſitions doſt thou not change, and what heart is ſo hard, that it is not in thy power to ſoften? Love hath changed the temper of this inſatiable Miſer, who had caſt off all ſenſe of humanity to his neareſt Relations, into a Liberal and magnificent Lover. He is extreamly ſmitten with *Roſina*, he is paſſionately in Love with her; and ſhe will e're long be Miſtreſs of his Heart and Wealth too. She related many improbable things in her ſtory, which might have betrayed her, had not the affection wherewith *Marquina* harkned to her cloſed both his

his Eyes and Ears; nay he was so bewitched by this Passion, that he would have believed more unlikely things than these.

The effect of this doleful Narration of *Rosina* was, that *Marquina* assured her of all the favour and affection she could expect from him, even his Estate, Life, Heart, and Soul, making her the absolute Mistress of all he was possest of; Intreating her to forget her misfortunes, and to be confident that she was in an House where she might command, and all her Orders should be strictly obeyed, as far as it was in his power. *Rosina* returned him many thanks for his generous Offers, concluding her Compliments with a fresh shower of Tears; which she had at command whenever she pleased or stood in need of them.

With these Artifices, she became Mistress of *Marquina*, and all he had, so that she might dispose of him and it as she pleased. Her Beauty had wounded him, and he was mighty desirous to Try whether she would be as willing to Cure him. But he cannot contrive how to acquaint her with his malady. He resolved at last that if he could not prevail upon her by Submissions and Presents, he would use the last Remedy, which was to marry her. This is a Bait that many times catches the most Subtle of that Sex; but he that uses

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it has cause most commonly to repent. *Rosina* had no other design than to examine the Chests of the greedy Merchant, and would be no way engaged till she was secure of the Prize; for the rascally Trick *Ruperio* had play'd her, made her extream distrustful.

Marquina staid all that day in his Garden, and neglected his business in the City; but next Morning, leaving his Lady asleep, he takes his Mule, and goes about his ordinary occasions, having charged the Gardner's Wife to provide a good Breakfast for his Mistress as soon as she was awake, and to have a care of the House. He lock'd the Chamber door where his Money was, and as he went out commanded the Gardner not to suffer any one to come into his Garden, but the old Man that brought *Theodora* thither, for that was the name the hypocritical *Rosina* had given her self.

He then went away attended by a little Negro, to whom he gave Money to buy provision for dinner. *Rosina* got up, and the Gardner's Wife punctually perform'd the Orders she had received from her Master, Treating her the best she could, that so all the Servants might be partakers of this magnificence. *Rosina* comes down into the Garden, where she took occasion to commend

commend the Walks and Contrivances of it, for the Gardner kept it in good Order, and well furnished with Herbs, Fruits, and Flowers.

Finding the Sun beginning to grow hot, she went into the House, where meeting with a Lute on which *Marquina's* Factor was wont to play. She put it in Tune, and made that her Entertainment, till *Marquina* return'd from the City, who hearing her playing on it, was wonderfully pleased to find one perfection in her more than he knew before. She perceiving that *Marquina* hearkned to her Musick, joined her Voice to the Instrument to enchant him more if possible than he was already. She sung so sweetly that *Marquina* was ravished at the Musick, so that he made her this high Complement, that he could not imagine it to be the voice of any mortal Creature, but rather that of an Angel descended from above; and coming towards her Transported with Joy, How, says he, hath my poor Habitation been honoured by your Retirement into it, most adorable *Theodora?* What happiness hath your arrival blest me with, who never knew any before? What Felicity have I received in beholding your Transcendent Beauty, and to observe in you a thousand unknown excellencies

cellencies, which I could not diſcover at firſt ſight.

You preſs too hard upon me, Dear Sir, replies the counterfeit *Theodora*, and put me to the bluſh with your exceſſive Praiſes; I am not ſuch a Stranger to my ſelf, but that I muſt account it Flattery, to beſtow ſuch extraordinary Commendations on a Perſon that deſerves ſo little; Had I miſtruſted you had heard me I would have defer'd my diverſion to another time, ſince probably my voice may ſeem untunable to you compar'd to the excellent Songſters in this City; unleſs generous natures have an inclination to favour Perſons of mean performances, and perſuade them their accompliſhments exceed what indeed they are. No more compliments I beſeech you, dear Lady, ſays *Marquina*, now raiſed up to the higheſt pitch of beſotted Love; My expreſſions proceed from my heart, and I can aſſure you, Madam, that though I have heard celebrated Voices in *Sevil*, yet yours is beyond any of them.

Your moſt humble Servant, ſays *Roſina*, the honour you are pleaſed to allow me, makes me heartily wiſh that my poor abilities might find you ſome further diverſion with this Inſtrument, ſince you acknowledge your ſelf ſo much ſatisfied therewith; But my Troubles are ſo great and

Preſſing

Preſſing that I only minded my own caſe in what I did. I muſt ſee your Sorrows at an end, replies *Marquina*, before you leave this Houſe, Let me intreat you therefore, ſweet Lady, if you cannot abſolutely free your mind from Ruminating upon your Afflictions, yet to condeſcend to a ſhort Ceſſation of them. This renewing of your kindneſs, ſays ſhe, muſt needs extreamly oblige me, and conſequently force me to a grateful compliance with your Commands, as far as lies in my power; but I cannot promiſe it you ſo fully as you wiſh; becauſe that the Perſon that brought me hither, ſeems to have forgot that he was to return and fetch me away; otherwiſe he would have found ſome means to have given me a Viſit once in three days. Let not that create you any trouble, replies the generous Merchant, but rather imagine there may be ſome juſt cauſe for his neglect; I am ſomewhat apprehenſive, ſays ſhe, that he may be returned to *Granada*, for feat leaſt being miſs'd, he ſhould be queſtioned as acceſſary to my eſcape; and this would prove the greateſt of all my Misfortunes, for if he be gone, he hath carried all I had along with him. Never fear that, cryes *Marquina*, for he muſt have more Compaſſion than to forſake you in ſo great an extremity; but though he and all others

fail

fail you, assure your self I shall not, and I implore you to believe this my sincere protestations, that I am so passionately your Servant, that I cannot think my self the same Person I was before I saw you.

He then proceeded to make an absolute discovery of his Love to her; but the cunning Gipsy pretending she did not understand his meaning, returned him a Civil Answer to the proffers he made her; Repeating her former acknowledgments for his kindness, and not doubting the performance of what he out of his natural goodness was pleased to promise her. Dinner was now come in, and they both sat down; the entertainment was very Noble and Suitable to the Love of the Founder, who seemed to have banished all business and Avarice out of his mind.

Rosina and *Garay* had agreed together, that he should come to her when he was sure the old Merchant was abroad, and that he should disguise himself like a Beggar, so as not to be known, nor any suspicion might be conceived by him. She had contrived several ways to defraud the Merchant of some part of his Treasure, but could fix on none that she thought might prove effectual, the Room wherein it was lock'd up being strongly Fortified, but at length she cunningly discovered the place where the

wretched

wretched Miſer hid the Keys of his Iron Cheſts.

Marquina went as uſual into the City, which being obſerved by *Garay*, he comes to the Houſe in Beggar's Weeds with two Crutches. Being got under the window where *Roſina* look'd out, he begg'd an Alms of her. She threw down ſomething and asked him from wence he came, who answering from *Granada*, ſhe ſeem'd extream glad, and turning to the Gardner's Wife, ſays ſhe, let us go down into the Garden; this poor Fellow is come out of my Country, and I would fain have ſome diſcourſe with him, to know what News he hath brought from thence. The poor Woman ſuſpecting nothing, made no difficulty to let her go into the Garden. *Roſina* askt him how long it was ſince he left *Granada*, he replyed nine or ten days; ſhe continued her Queſtions ſo long that the Gardner's Wife weary of their diſcourſe, and having ſomewhat elſe to do, left them. Being rid of her, they conſulted what was to be put in execution the night following, and agreed what courſe they were to take to poſſeſs themſelves of *Marquina*'s Money.

This done *Garay* departed, and *Roſina* went to her Chamber, telling the Gardner's Wife, that ſhe had underſtood ſo much from the poor Fellow concerning

her

her Affairs, that she should shortly return into her own Country: The Gardner's Wife and the Maid were not very well pleased to hear that News, fearing their Master, after her departure, should resume his niggardly Humour, and keep as miserable a House as he had done before, nay haply put himself and all his Servants to greater pennance in their Diet, to save what he had squandred away, during her abode there.

Marquina, upon his return home a Night, found *Rosina* more cheerful than any time before, which encouraged him to acquaint her more freely of his Love than he had done before; and to assure her of the disquiet he had been in upon her Account. *Rosina* seem'd pleased therewith, and by her Familiarity gave him some hopes of seeing his Desires satisfied. Upon this Presumption, he presented her with a Diamond Ring which cost him above 100 Crowns. The Lady gave him many Thanks for so noble a Present; and in requital, play'd him a Lesson on the Lute, to which she sung some new Airs, though she complained that the Instrument was out of Tune; However, *Marquina* was so pleased with the Harmony that he promised her a better Present next Day, expecting to oblige her thereby

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grant him the Favour he ſo earneſtly expected; though in the mean while, *Roſina* employed all her Thoughts in contriving how to compaſs the Robbery ſhe intended.

The next Day *Garay*, who was well experienced in ſuch Affairs, procured ſome others of the ſame Profeſſion to aſſiſt him in the Work; and having obſerved *Marquina* going into his Houſe, they ſtaid till he was gone to Bed, which was ſomewhat late; for *Roſina*, who held a Correſpondence with them, had purpoſely kept him up. About Midnight *Garay* and his Comrades brought a Thing in the ſhape of a Man, ſtuffed with Straw, with a Cloak which covered his Face, and planted it on a Stake over-againſt the principal Window toward the Garden, which was that part of the Houſe where *Marquina* lodged. The Night was ſomewhat dark, and proper for their Plot. Having thus placed the Figure, they knockt ſo loud at the door, that it might have been heard from one end of the Garden to the other. *Marquina* awakned thereby, leaped out of his Bed, being ſurprized at what had never happened to him before. He called to his Servant, and bid him ſee who knockt; he between ſleeping and waking, went and cry'd as loud as he could, Who knocks there but no body anſwering, and he not mind-

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ing the Figure that stood near the Wall, told his Master there was no body.

Marquina thereupon got into bed again, and composed himself to rest, but it was soon interrupted; for *Garay* knockt more violently than before, which so astonished him, that he sent his Man the second time to know what the matter was; who returning with the same account, that he could see no body. *Marquina* got up himself, and calls out of the Window, *Who knocks at the door thus unseasonably?* No answer being made, he grew more inraged, but looking a little more stoutly about the House than his Servant had done, he perceived the Figure planted before his Window. *Marquina* was extreamly surprized at the sight of the Person who had made that great disturbance, and yet gave him no Answer; and assuming more Courage than he was naturally master of, he boldly cryed out, ''Tis basely done of you, 'Sir, to abuse me thus, you shall find that 'I am a Person that will not suffer such 'Affronts, pray walk about your Business, 'and do not affront me any more, except 'you think your self invulnerable, and 'that a brace of Bullets will make no Impression on your inchanted Skin.

Having made this Bravado, he shut the Window and went to Bed; but he was hardly

ardly warm in it, when the knocking was renewed with more Violence than before, which obliged him to take a Muſquet that he always kept by him charged for the Security of his Money. Opening the Window, he found the Image continued in the ſame poſture; 'What Impudence is this in you, ſaid he very much inraged, to do Miſchief only for the ſake of Miſchief in diſturbing my Reſt, without any benefit to your ſelf, 'tis unpardonable, and deſerves exemplary Puniſhment: Whereupon, cocking his Piece, he aimed at him; and the other never ſtirring, as if it were out of a Preſumption that he had no Fire-arms to make good his Threatnings, he gave him notice a third time, that he would provoke him to that which he was unwilling to do: At length, obſerving that he did not regard any thing he ſaid, he reſolved to give Fire, not only to fright him, but to hit him; he ſhot, and the Figure fell to the ground; upon which *Garay*, who was not far off, cries out with a doleful Voice, *Oh, I am killed!* and immediately he and his Crew made a great noiſe, at the ſight of a Man ſo unfortunately killed.

Marquina was wonderfully concerned for what he had done, coyetous Perſons being generally cowardly, and ſoon fright-

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ed at the Thoughts of any loss. He shut the Window, and in a great fright waking *Rosina*, who had greater things in her Head than to mind sleeping, acquainted her with what he had done. She seemed as much troubled at it as he, and much blamed him for executing so cruel a Resolution; for since he knew himself to be safe enough in his own House, he might have suffered them to knock till they had been weary; and had better have endured that noise, than to bring himself into so much danger by killing a Man; adding several other Reasons, which so confounded poor *Marquina*, that he knew not what to do: She advised him for his safety to take Sanctuary immediately at St. *Bernard's* Monastery, since if the dead Persons were found at his Door, he would be certainly sent to Prison, as being murdered so near his House. *Marquina* was so perplexed, that he wish'd he had never been born; and no question, had not *Rosina* been highly concerned to dissemble upon this occasion, she must needs have died with Laughing, as being privy to the whole Intrigue. He call'd up his People, telling them what had happened, who all blamed him for committing so rash an Action, which made the poor old Dotard almost mad. He imagined himself already apprehended, his

Money

loney carried away, and but a ſhort time etween him and the Gallows; at leaſt if he ere obliged by Fortune to acknowledge e Crime; never conſidering that it was ſtifiable for one Man to Kill another in s own defence. At laſt he reſolved to go St. *Bernard's*, but knew not how to diſ- oſe of his Money. He thought it not pru- nce to leave it at the diſcretion of his rvants, or to carry it to a Friend's houſe, he had any, (for Perſons of his humour ve very few) he had not time.

In this diſtraction, he deſired *Roſina*'s vice, ſhe ſeeming very much diſturbed, d no leſs fearful than he, pretended ſhe uld not give him any; but after a little uſe, She gave him that Counſel which e had prepared long before, Asking him hat Money he had in the Houſe; He in- niouſly confeſs'd that he had about four ouſand Crowns in Gold, and about half at ſum in Silver; *I'll tell you what I would (ſaid this Subtle Baggage) were I in your ſe; ſince it cannot be carried to a Friends uſe without being ſeen, I would bury it in Garden, in ſome place where you may find afterwards, by ſetting ſome mark near it. is you muſt do your ſelf, not ſuffering your vants to know any thing of it, leſt they ld be tempted to prove falſe to you; for the es are now ſo bad that one does not know who*

to trust, I would assist you herein and h
your Councel, but that I am afraid when t
search comes to be made, and I am left he
I shall be the first taken; and I would be lo
to run my self into danger, having but just e
caped that trouble I have acquainted you wit

In the midst of his Calamities, *Marqui* was grieved to perceive by the discour of his Mistress, that she was much distur bed upon his account, and what he la much to heart was, that he saw himself i danger of losing her. This consideratio not only forced Tears from his Eyes, bu made him likewise use bitter exclamation against the malice of his Fortune. *Ros* desired him to be of good Courage, pe suading him to follow her Advice, and t hope the best. So having commanded hi Servants to go to their several Chambers and not stir from thence, He and *Rosin* whom only he durst trust, went to th place where his Money was; It lay in a huge Chest covered over with Iron Bars and the Keys were so artificial, that it wa impossible to counterfeit them, or to ge a peice thence, otherwise then by the Plo invented by our cunning Robber.

They first took out all the Silver, and then put the Gold into a little Box; Bring ing all into the Garden, they made tw holes at some distance one from the other

in one they put the Silver, and in the [illegible] the Gold, setting a Mark that they might find the place again. *Marquina* took along with him two hundred Crowns in Gold, and gave *Rosina* Fifty to shift for her self till the business was accommodated.

That done they went up into the House where they might see several Persons walking with Lights, *Garay* and his Comerades being there, who represented the Magistrate; which *Rosina* shewing him persuaded him to make all the haste he could to St. *Bernard's*. To do this they got over the Garden Wall, being afraid to open the Door, for they perceived the Actors of this Tragi-comedy kept a Watch there with such Decorum, as if they had been really the officers of Justice. All *Marquina's* Family followed him over the Wall, fearing they might come into trouble for their Master's fault. *Marquina* and his lady lurk'd some where there about, till it was day that they might find the Monastery Gates open. *Garay* was hard by to observe what became of *Marquina* and his people; Finding he had left his House, and got into Sanctuary with *Rosina*, he went about an hour after Sun-rising to St. *Bernard's* in the habit of a Secular Priest, that he might the better speak with *Rosina*. He told him how matters stood, that they

had buried the Money in the Garden, [illegible]
that it was all in Silver, intending to [illegible]
ſerve all the Gold for her ſelf.

Roſina came out of the Monaſtry, a[illegible]
diſguized in Man's Cloaths, met with G[illegible]
ray and one of his Companions about m[illegible]
night; All three went to the Garde[illegible]
they helpt her over the Wall firſt, to [illegible]
and ſee whether any Body were in t[illegible]
Houſe, but they were all vaniſhed, as if [illegible]
were infected. She thereupon called G[illegible]
ray and his Companion, having taken [illegible]
the Silver they carried it to one of the fi[illegible]
theſt Inns in the Suburbs. Having be[illegible]
merry a while and drank their own Heal[illegible]
and to the lucky ſucceſs of their fut[illegible]
deſigns they went to bed, the two Men t[illegible]
gether; and *Roſina* by her ſelf. As ſo[illegible]
as ſhe found they were aſleep, ſhe puts [illegible]
the ſame Habit and returns to the Garde[illegible]
She took up the Box of Gold, and wi[illegible]
out any diſaſter, got ſafe to the Inn beſo[illegible]
her Companions were awake. The ne[illegible]
day having divided the Silver, of wh[illegible]
ſhe and *Garay* had the greateſt ſhare, ſe[illegible]
ed up the Gold in her Clothes, ſhe deſt[illegible]
vil, taking *Garay* along with her, who [illegible]
ing ſenſible what advantages he mig[illegible]
gain in her Company, reſolved to run fo[illegible]
tunes with her. They took their w[illegible]
towards *Madrid*, to which place they w[illegible]
arri[illegible]

rive by that time we shall see what be-
me of *Marquino*, whom we left in St.
rnard's Monastry. Having continued
ere four Days after *Rosina* left him, he
new not what to think of her that she
me not again according to her promise.
e addressed himself to one of the Monks,
ho had much acquaintance in the City,
nd intreated him to inquire whether there
ere any proceedings against him for the
urther he had committed. The Friar
romised to give him an account of it.
e accordingly inquired at all Places where
e might most probably know any thing
f the business, but no body could give him
y satisfaction, not having heard any
ing of it. He thereupon assured *Marqui-*
he might safely go abroad, and need
ar nothing; He went out one Night to
Friend's House, whom he acquainted with
l that had past, as also the great perplex-
y he was in, desiring him to make a more
rticular Scrutiny into the Affair, than
e thought the Monk had done. He did
and gave him the same account as the o-
er; Yet would not that satisfie him, but
e desired his Friend to go to his House,
hereof he gave him the chief Key. He
ent but found no body in it, and his Mule
ad for want of Food. He returns with
e News to *Marquino*, advising him to

come out of the Monastery, and go ho
and thence about the City as he was w
to do. The death of his Mule did
much trouble him, so glad was he to
himself once more at Liberty; the o
thing that gave him any disquiet was, t
his *Theodora* came not to see him. But
imagined that the cause of it might
that being a young Virgin, she had shelte
ed her self some where to keep out
the hands of Justice, or that haply
might have been met with by her Fath
who as she had told him sought after h

He went to his House, whither ca
soon after, the Gardner, his Wife, and t
other Servants. He goes into the G
den, and notwithstanding all the Ter
and distraction he had been in, remembr
the place where he had hid his Money,
was not a little Glad to find the Ma
where he had set it; so that before
went to bed he resolved to secure his Tre
sure in its former Citadel. As soon as
was dark, he took the Gardner and a L
thorn and Candle with him, and goes
where the Silver was, and bids him Di
He did so, but there was nothing to
found, whereat *Marquina* was wonderfu
ly surprized. He went thence to the pla
where they had laid the Gold, and the
met with as little, only *Rosina* knew wh

s become of all. He walked several turns
out the Garden with much vexation,
agining the marks might be displaced;
t what with looking for them, and what
ith Digging, the morning came; so that
last despairing of finding any thing he
aved himself like a distracted Person.
he Gardner knew not what he look'd for,
r for what he had brought him thither.
he poor Man resolved to have a little pa-
ence, and to make a fresh search in the
orning, having still some hopes of find-
g what he had hid. He went to Bed, or
ther to lie down in insufferable Tor-
ents; but as soon as it was day break he
t up, and calling the Gardner, they re-
m'd to the work they had been at the
ght before. Having digged again in those
aces, where he was confident he had laid
e Money, all they could discover was,
t there had been two holes made there
fore, and that Money or something else
d been hidden there, but all was remo-
d. This assurance made him stark mad,
nning his head against the Wall, throw-
himself on the Ground, and acting such
ntick things, as raised Compassion in
Servants; who from thence concluded
t he had lost his Money, and suspected
feign'd *Theodora* had robb'd him, by
orders he gave them to search after

her all over the City. But he was far enough out of his reach, and had so well secured his Money, that it was never like to come into his Chests any more. He kept his bed for sometime out of meer vexation that he so soon lost, what had cost him many years trouble and pains to get together. The Robbery was soon divulged over all the City; some who knew not his humour, pitied his misfortune, but such as were acquainted with his insatiable Avarice, were not a little pleased to see him so justly punished.

The End of the First Part.

THE LIFE OF Donna *Roſina*, A Notorious *CHEAT*.

The Second Part.

OUR Accompliſht Cheat having done her Work at *Marquiva's*, and made a broken Merchant of one who was counted the wealthieſt Man about *Sevil*, ſhe thought it prudential not to make any long ſtay there, for fear of falling into the hands of Juſtice, whoſe Officers would certainly be upon the ſearch for her upon the

Sollicitations of the Party Robb'd. She was got far enough off e're he was sensible of his loss; for the next night, after they had carried off the Money, she and *Garay* hired two Mules, and came to *Carmona*, about half a days Journey from *Sevil*; they had bespoke two Places in the *Madrid* Coach, which was to pass through that City, and take them up as they passed by. They lighted at one of the best Inns in *Carmona*, where *Rosina*, Keeping out of Sight, expected the Coach; pleasing her self with the thoughts of what preferment she might come to in time, being already Mistress of four thousand Crowns in Gold, which with a little Silver was all that this penurious Miser had scrap'd together during his whole Life, with much Paine, and many an hazardous Voyage to Foreign Countries. Observe here the exemplary punishment of such miserable Wretches, who are meer Slaves to their own wealth; and whose misfortunes the World are rather apt to rejoyce at, than bemoan; For how can they expect others should have any kindness for them, when they themselves have none for any thing but what they hoard up in their Coffers.

The Coach which our Fortunate Adventurers expected to carry them to *Madrid*, came at its usual time to *Carmona*.

There

There were in it already Six Persons, a Gentleman, and his Lady, a Priest, Two University Scholars, and a Servant belonging to the Priest, a Young Lad about 15 years of Age. They all knew that there were two Persons to be taken in at *Carmona*, who had paid somewhat extraordinary for the best Places; they accordingly resigned them when they saw them come into the Coach; but *Garay* who was a very Civil and obliging Person, recommended his to the Gentleman's Lady, whom he seated on the left side of *Rosina*, and sate himself at the forepart of the Coach with her Husband. All being placed to their content, they thought it a great happiness that they had met with so good Company. But *Rosina* and *Garay* had another secret satisfaction arising from the thought of the good prize they had brought into such agreeable Company. The Gentleman was a Person of excellent discourse, the Priest of a very sociable humour, and the Scholars made it appear that they had not misspent their time in the University, every one being desirous to make the best discovery he could of his Abilities.

Being come within a Musket shot of the ancient City of *Cordaba*, the Metropolis of the Kingdom while the Moors were possess'd of all *Spain*, after Sunset, an acci-

pected accident caus'd them to make a halt. Two Gentlemen being come out into the Fields upon a challenge which one had sent the other, and having fought, one was run through the Body in two several Places; which had obliged his Adversary to make his escape, and get into some Church for Sanctuary. The wounded Person cryed out for a Priest to receive his Confession just as the Coach passed by, which being heard, the Priest who was named Doctor *Alonsalio*, could do no less than get out, accompanied by *Garay* and *Rosina*, who had a great desire to see the wounded Man. They came to him and as soon as the Doctor had received his Confession, and given him Absolution, he lost his Speech, being supported by *Garay*. The Priest returned to the Coach, and having called several times upon *Rosina*, who pretended she could not get away *Garay*. The Coachman perceiving it grow dark, put on his Horses, having sent them word what Inn he should take up. *Rosina* was much troubled to see the Coach gone, having left her and *Garay* behind, charitably exhorting the Dying Person to Repentance; but he was so far gone, that to spare their further exhortations he gave up the Ghost. They were much troubled what to do with the Body, when some Officers of Justice came to

them, who seeing at a distance the dead Person in the Arms of *Garay*, and a Woman standing by, and having likewise notice before, that two Men were seen to go out of the City with a design to fight a Duel, presently imagined that *Garay* was one of them, and consequently the Murtherer of the other; upon which presumption he was seized and sent to Prison, and order given to the Goaler to take care to secure him. *Rosina* had more favour, being confined in one of the Officers Houses, with a charge to see her forth coming. They both used all the Arguments they could to clear themselves from being any way concerned in the murder, alledging upon what occasion they came to the Body; but their own words would not be taken, and it was presumed the Duel had been upon the account of the Woman; the Judge order'd her to be brought to his own House to be farther examin'd: when she came thither, the Room was full of Gentlemen, and among others a very rich *Italian* Merchant, whom some business of his own had brought thither; they had no sooner seen *Rosina*, but they all admired her Beauty and majestick Air, but especially the *Italian*, who was of an amorous Constitution. *Rosina* was much offended that such an affront should be put upon

her

her by the way, being sensible that if they were detained the next day, She should lose the opportunity of continuing their Journey. The Judge askt her several questions about the Duel, and the Gentleman's death; who replied, she knew nothing of the occasion; but was coming in the *Sevil* Coach to go to *Madrid*, accompanied by some other Persons then in an Inn in that Town, which she named; that as the Coach pass'd by, a certain Person who had been wounded in the High-way not far from them, call'd out for some Person to receive his Confession, and that a Priest who was with them went out to do it, whom she also followed out of Curiosity, accompanied by an Uncle, who went along with her to see the wounded Man.

Hereupon the Judge ordered in regard it was grown late, that the business should be adjourn'd till next day, that a more strict inquiry might be made into it, and in the mean while, that all who came in the Coach, should not stir from *Corduba* without permission. *Rosina* was then brought back to lodge in the Officer's House that night. The *Italian* who lodg'd not far from it accompanied her; but though he had lived at a far greater distance, he would have thought the way but short to

wait

wait upon a Lady with whom he was deeply in Love. He took his leave of her at the Officer's House, assuring her that he should think himself happy to serve her in all things that lay in his Power, for which she thanked him; reckoning it only as a Compliment. But the vexation she conceived at her being thus unexpectedly confined, brought her into a Tertian Feaver.

The next day all the Persons who came in the Coach being examined, gave the same account that *Rosina* had done before, whereupon *Garay* was set at Liberty. Other witnesses also who knew something concerning the Duel were heard, and made the Judges a clear discovery of the Murther, *Garay* went immediately to visit *Rosina*, expressing himself extreamly concerned at her indisposition. He did all he could to cheer her up, that they might prosecute their Journey; but the Physician who had visited her, declared that it would be very dangerous, and as much as her Life was worth to remove her till the Fever was abated. So that the Coachman having brought their things, and receiving the hire of his Stay, was forced to leave them behind. The *Italian* came often to see the fair Traveller at the Officer's House, and began to Treat her very Nobly, an Humour the more remarkable in him, who

Sordid Niggardliness, might be compared to the wretched *Marquina*, but Love often preserves such Miracles, turning Avarice into Prodigality, and Cowardice into Courage.

Rosina kept her Bed fifteen days, during which time she was continually visited by Signior *Octavio*, so was the amorous *Italian* called, and usually after the Visit, came in a Servant with a Treat of sweet Meats and wild Fowl, which the Officer and his Wife were well pleased with, for most of it fell to their share. At length the Lady with her Health, received also her good Complexion, and Beauty, and the *Italian* continuing his Civilities offered her a House with a fine Garden, which he had on the side of the pleasant River Quadalquevir. *Garay* whom she called her Uncle, advised her not to refuse his kindness, for he observed the Gentleman to be extreamly in Love with her, and was very Rich, and that they might get as much out of him, as they had out of the Avaritious *Marquina*. *Rosina* hereupon accepted the Offer, and put things in order to go to the Merchant's, and continue there till she had recovered her self. The *Italian* would not have it known at *Cordova* that he had brought her to his Countrey House, to prevent the talk of the People,

d other inconveniences that might have
nſue. So that with the conſent of *Roſina*, he
ave it out that ſhe had left the City in
rder to proſecute her Journey; Accor-
ingly there was two Mules brought for
er and *Garay*, and two others to carry
eir Baggage, and having left *Cordoba* to-
ards Evening, to blind the eyes of the
quiſitive, they put on towards *Madrid*,
having rid half a League, thay turn'd
ck again, and took up their Quarters at
gnior *Octavio's*, which was not above
wo Flight ſhots from the City. There he
xpected them, having provided a Mag-
ificent Supper to entertain her. Here
e *Italian* diſcovered his Love to her more
eely than he had done before. He was
Perſon of about 40 years of Age, of a
ood manly countenance, having buried
s Wife, by whom he had no Children,
bout two years before. He was a whole-
le Merchant and dealt in all ſorts of
oods, inſomuch that all the other Trades
t only of the City, but alſo of other
laces thereabout came to him, for he
ld correſpondence in all parts.

He was a very thrifty Perſon, to ſay no
ore; and had ſome yearly revenue, be-
les twenty Thouſand Crowns in ready
oney, and Sixty Thouſand in Credit,
his own Trading, which was very

great. He was a great Student, and had been at the Universities of *Bologna* before he came Heir to his Brother, who died a very rich Man in *Spain*, and that Estate occasioned him to marry at *Cordoba*. He had so passionate an affection for *Rosina*, that he used all means possible to insinuate himself into her favour; and upon that account offered her the use of his Country-House to take the Air, and recover her indisposition; hoping that having her there, he should more easily compass his desires. She had been told by *Garay* that this Merchant was well feathered, and easy to be Plum'd, and since that good luck had fallen to them by chance, they ought to make the best advantage of it.

That night they only Supp'd together, and every one went to their rest, it being very late; though the *Italian* pretended he would have returned to lie in the City; but his Servants whom he had before instructed, persuaded him not to go abroad at that unseasonable time of the night, for fear of meeting with Thieves, or the Presi-Masters who were abroad, and many times did a great deal of Mischief, and robbed all they met. At last seeming to be persuaded not to stir out, he was glad to pass away some part of the night in discourse

with *Rosina*, and being got to bed, his business was to consider by what means, and how with the least charge he might purchase the prize he aimed at. Several things came into his mind agreeable to his humour, but the easiest he could find was to forget and never think of her more, for he was sensible that the Age we live in was such, that it is very difficult to obtain any favour from an handsome Woman without extraordinary charge.

The next day he commanded a Breakfast to be provided for her, and being told he was got up, went into her Chamber to chide her for rising so soon, and by that means to observe whether she used any Art to set off her Beauty; He found her combing her Head, and so had a full sight of her Hair which was of a great length, and of a Chesnut colour. The *Italian* Mess'd himself that his new Mistress, to all her other perfections, was furnished with a fine a head of hair, but he was more surprized when upon her dividing it into two Parts to make him an Answer, he saw her Face which appeared as beautiful as when she went to bed, a thing able to enclose a Person less inclined to Love, and more to Covetousness, than he was; since there is no greater charm to secure a Lovers Heart than to see that the perfecti-

ons

ous of his Lady are natural and scorn to borrow any thing from Art; Indeed *Rosina* wanted neither Paints, Waters nor Ointments, wherewith Young Women oftimes hasten wrinkles, and lose their youth e're they are aware. She only washt her face in fair water, and needed no Vermilion to heighten her sweet Complexion than what was natural to her.

The Merchant ask'd whether she would please to see his Garden; who replyed, she was extreamly obliged to him for the trouble he gave himself to divert her, and to satisfie him how kindly she took that favour at his hands, went along with him just as she was, without putting up her hair, which hanging over her shoulders added much to her beauty, and it is not to be doubted but she had some design in it. Her new Gallant thought it an extraordinary favour to have her by the hand, and in that posture. She saw the whole Garden, seeming much pleased with the delightfulness of it.

Having Recreated herself with him till the Sun grew hot, She returned into the House, after which discoursing of many things, she desired to see all the Apartments. The *Italian* being very willing that she should view his wealth, shewed her a great number of Fine Pictures, done by the best

best Painters in Europe, Some very rich pieces of Tapestry, Cabinets of Ebony of several Fashions, Embroidered Beds. All sorts of Houshold Stuff of great value, and all other things requisite for furnishing a House fit for a Noble-man. Having seen all the Rooms he opend a Curious Closet which was full of Books richly bound, and neatly disposed into gilt Drawers, *Garay* who was with them opens one of them, and finds in it the Works of *Rugmundus Lullius*, with several other Philosophical Books. The Merchant perceiving him taken up with the perusal of those Books ask'd him what he lookt at so attentively; *I find, Sir, Said he, a great many Books of Chymistry, and from the Curiosity I observe in your Collection of Treatises of this kind, I suppose you have studied that Science.* 'Tis true, says the Italian, *I have spent some time in the perusal of those Authors; But how far I pray are you acquainted with them. Only so far,* replies the other, *that I have spent the best part of my Life in that Study; Nay then,* cryes the Italian, *you must needs be a very great Chymist. I am not to acknowledge what I am,* replies Garay, *we shall talk another time of these matters more at large*; I shall only tell you, that beside these Authors, I have Read all I could ever meet with on that Subject.

The

The *Italian* being mighty joyful to hear this News, said, *I am extream glad that this Science pleases you, I having a particular inclination for it; I know it very well*, answers Garay, (*having already resolved to put a Trick upon him*) *but in regard I put great confidence in you, I will tell you a thing in your ear which you will be much surprized at; that my Neice without studying knows as much in a manner of this Art as I do; and is very fortunate in the practick part of it; But I intreat you not to speak to her about it, for she would not take it well, as being unwilling any one should know it.* Garay could not have thought upon a more likely way to bring the *Italian* into the Snare; for his Avarice was such, that he would have parted with his Soul to find out the Philosopher's Stone, hoping that if he once got that Secret he should wallow in Gold.

Rosina busied her self at the other end of the Closet, while *Garay* made this discourse to the *Italian*, and was looking upon some other pleasant Books, for there were of all sorts; yet not so attentive but she heard something of *Garay*'s discourse concerning Chymistry, and perceived the Merchant was much taken with it. The truth is, *Garay* had some knowledge of that Science, and had spent a considerable Sum of Money to find out the Philosopher's

Philosopher's Stone, which though many have sought, yet could not any affirm they had met with it; and *Garay* only experienced the folly of those who spent their time and Money in such ridiculous disquisitions; Being glad that he hoped now to have met with an opportuniny to recover some part of what he had Squandred away therein.

For the *Italian* crediting all that *Garay* told him, imagined himself somewhat above a Prince. He informed him that in that very House he had all things requisite to make the Experiment; and thereupon brought him into a Room full of furnaces, Alembicks, Glasses, and Crucibles, with all manner of Chimical Instruments, and good store of Charcoal. *Garay* understanding this, concluded the Merchant would be easily deluded, and seem'd confident that though he imagined he understood all the Books he had Treating of that Art, yet that he only knew so much of them as would serve to bring him into a snare. The discourse was adjourned at that time Dinner being brought in; which being ended, *Garay* pretended to take a Nap, leaving the Merchant alone with *Rosina*, to whom he took occasion to make a full discovery of his Love; assuring her all he had was at her Service to dispose of

as

as she pleased. She seem'd to entertain the offers of his affection with such kindness, which gave him some slight hopes She shewing her self very pleasant to him.

Having seen a Lute in one of the Rooms, she desired to have it brought her, hoping her Musick, which was excellent, might have the same effect on the *Italian* as it had on *Marquina*. The Merchant who had little skill at that Instrument himself, was very glad to hear she could use it, ordred it to be given to her, saying that his deceased Wife play'd admirably well upon it. *Rosina* then took up the Instrument, and shewed her accomplishment therein with such Dexterity that the *Italian* was astonished, and to Vanquish him absolutely, she sung an Air to it with such a Grace, that he was at a loss which to admire most, her Hand or her Voice, she received the excessive commendations he gave her with a modest Blush, a thing she could command, though never acquainted with shame, and made him this Return.

Signior Octavio *what I have done was only for your diversion, be pleased to receive it as a Sign of the desire I have to endeavour your satisfaction; which yet I have not done without reluctancy before a Person of so delicate an Ear as your self, who no doubt are used to hear the*

best

best Voices in the World. I never heard any comparable to yours, (replies *Olavio*) therefore I beseech you, let not your Modesty make you insensible of your own Worth, and to think my Approbation above it. And perceiving *Rosina* had laid by her Lute, he desir'd her to make use of it a while longer, and to oblige him with one Song more; which to please him, she comply'd with: and he thereupon renewed his Compliments to her, with Thanks for the Favour; which she seemed modestly to declare were not justly due to her. He then retired, that she, as well as himself, might take a little rest.

In the mean time, *Garay* instead of sleeping, was contriving how to gain the *Philosopher's Stone* (not for the credulous *Genoese*, but out of him) He had so far persuaded him of his Abilities in that Science, that he desired nothing so earnestly, as to be so well skill'd in them as he was, only out of a Design to satisfy his insatiable Covetousness. He imagined, that if he could find it out, a Rock, upon which so many Estates have been lost and thrown away, all his Houshold-Stuff should be of Gold, and that he should become as rich as *Crœsus*, and the wealthiest Men in the Kingdom compared to him, would be little better than Beggars.

Garay had also a long Discourse with *Rosina* about the means how to get the Gudgeon into the Net. He gave her some Instructions in Writing, that the *Italian* might be persuaded; she knew something of that sublime Art, at least the Terms of it; *Rosina* learnt them by Heart, and to begin the Cheat, *Garay* ask'd

brought from *Sevil*. It was a large Chai
and if a Dozen Links had been taken from
they would not have been miſs'd. Going i
to the City, he deſired a Gold-ſmith to me
down thoſe Links into an Ingott, which bei
done, he brought it back to the Houſe, an
communicated his Deſign to *Roſina*.

Octavio, who ſlept all this while as ſoundl
as if he had not been in Love, comes in t
them, and they began to talk of ſeveral thing
far remote from the Buſineſs he had been a
bout; which *Garay* did purpoſely to engage th
other to fall firſt upon that Subject, and in
deed, in a quarter of an Hour, he was got in
to the Art of Chimiſtry: *Garay* diſcours'd o
it after the rate of a Man that had ſpent hi
whole Eſtate in the work, inſomuch tha
Octavio was Aſtoniſhed thereat; for thoug
he pretended a great deal of skill in the Science
yet he could not but acknowledge himſel
much inferior to the other. *Garay* deſirous t
raiſe the Expectation of the Merchant to th
higheſt Pitch of Admiration, aſſured him
that he could turn what Metal he pleaſed in
to Gold; the *Italian* was almoſt Raviſh'd a
this News, and earneſtly intreated him tha
he might ſee it done. *Garay* enquired whethe
there was any Charcoal in the Houſe? The
Italian told him, there was good ſtore, fo
he had had the Curioſity to make ſome Trial
thereof himſelf. They went both up into th
Room where they had been before, whic
was full of Furnaces, Alembicks, and othe
Chymical Inſtruments. *Garay* cauſed ſom
Fire to be brought, and having put a litt
Copper into a Crucible, the *Italian* fav

Pocket full of Powder, which he ſaid, was the Principal Ingredient of the whole Work. He put this into the Crucible, which having brought as cleverly as he could to the Window, he threw out the melted Copper, and put the Ingott of Gold into its place, and covering it, told the *Italian*, that in half an hour he ſhould ſee the Operation; that time being ſpent in diſcourſing of ſeveral things concerning Chimiſtry, wherein *Octavio* deſir'd to make ſome farther Progreſs. At length *Garay* thought it time to ſhew him what he had done; and ſo opening the Crucible, he took out the Ingott and put it into his hand. The covetous Miſer was almoſt diſtracted for joy to ſee it, though he were not throughly ſatisfied whether it was pure Gold, or no; *Garay* deſired him to try at a Goldſmith's, which he did accordingly, and found it fine Gold, and returned home extraordinary well ſatisfied. While he was gone, *Garay* inſtructed *Roſina* how to effect their Deſign upon *Octavio*, who being more Covetous than Amorous, would have them immediately begin the great work of finding the Philoſophers Stone, promiſing him extraordinary Recommences, and told him he would be at the whole Charge, though it ſhould coſt him Twenty Thouſand Crowns.

Garay who had fully ſetled the Affair for defrauding the Merchant, replied, Seignior *Octavio*, I have lived now almoſt Seven Years above the Climacterical Year of my Life, ſo that I have paſſed the greateſt and beſt part of it. It were no hard Matter for me, with the help of the Science I am now Maſter of, to

my Eaſe, and it may be, to live more plen-
tifully than many of the Grandees of *Spain*
without the Favour or Aſſiſtance of any one
as I ſuppoſe, you your ſelf have obſerved
and in regard I have no Children of my own
to inherit my Eſtate, (which I thank Fortun
is ſomewhat conſiderable alſo in Land) th
main Concernment I have in this World,
to look after this Young Woman my Niece
She is but too rich already, ſince ſhe has a
that is mine, tho' her Father, who was m
Elder Brother, left her no mean Fortun
Had ſhe pleaſed, ſhe might have been Ma-
ried as honourably as ſhe was before, for he
late Husband was deſcended from one of th
Nobleſt Families in *Andaluſia*; and you kno
it is not difficult for me to add what Weal
I pleaſe to her Eſtate. But Seignior, ſuch
my Confidence in you, that I will acquai
you with the reaſon why I do it not.

That I am the moſt learned Alchimiſt in a
Spain, is known to many, which being al
come to the Knowledge of his Majeſty, I a
ſought for in all places, but have hitherto ha
the Happineſs to keep out of their Clutche
who are conſtantly employed to diſcover m
I having given out a Report, that I was go
for *England*. It is not from any Contempt
the Honours and Riches of this World, tha
avoid the Hands of thoſe whom the King ha
enjoyned to bring me to him, but upon co
ſideration that I would not purchaſe the F
vour of the greateſt Monarch in the Wor
with the Loſs of my Liberty; for I muſt e
pect to live the Remainder of my Days in
noble kind of Captivity. I will open my

present very great Armies on foot in several Parts, which puts him to such a vast Expence that his own Revenues, and all the Treasures he receives from the Indies, are not able to defray, so that to satisfy his Ambition, he is obliged to make use of the Industry of his Subjects: Now were it my hard Hap to be found by those who so narrowly seek after me. the King knows, that with the Assistance of my Art, he might easily discharge the Expence he is at, would immediately confine me in a Castle, where being forc'd to continue the rest of my Days, I should be perpetually kept at work to augment his Treasures, and supply his pressing Exigencies. I should not think much to do it once or twice, but the Avarice of Man is grown to that Height, that they are not satisfied with the abundance they enjoy, if they have the least Apprehension that they may be reduc'd to want before they Dye. This is the true Reason, Seignior *Octavio*, that I have Abandoned my own Country and am compelled to conceal my self: Receive therefore, what I have related to you, as a great secret, which I would not have communicated to my own Brother, had he been in the World; but I have so much Confidence in you, worthy Sir, that I hope you will never reveal it.

Octavio return'd *Garay* his most affectionate Thanks for the great Trust reposed in him, and judg'd himself so happy in the Discovery he had made to him, that he thought the greatest Nobles might justly envy him; telling *Garay*, that he was of Opinion, that the Grounds and Motives for which he conceal'd the admirable Knowledge he had acquir'd

were just and rational, since no doubt, he would be Confin'd, if for no other Reason but to prevent his carrying such a Secret into another Country, to serve a King who might be an Enemy to his Catholick Majesty. He acknowledged himself extreamly obliged to him, and wish'd it were in his Power to serve him; but having only the Wealth he was possess'd of to offer him, he intreated him to dispose of it as freely as if it was his own; and since he had shewed him a Trial of his Ability that he would not think that sufficient, but would give him such farther Instructions e're he left *Corduba*, as being observ'd, he might not miscarry in the great Work, *Garay* promised to satisfy his Desires, acquainting him withal, that such a precious thing as Gold could not be procured without Gold, and that the Foundation of all great Designs required Expence, that the Philosopher's Stone could not be found without much Cost and Pains, and that if he were resolved he should attempt the doing of it, he must be at the whole Charge, that afterwards the Profit should be equally divided, and that in a short time, he should be glutted with Wealth.

The *Italian* elevated at this Proposal, told him, he was resolv'd to spend all he was worth upon that Account, *Rosina* promised to assist them; Nay, says *Garay* to her, there is such a Necessity of your Assistance, that we can not well do without it; they thereupon resolved, that within two Days the great Operation should begin, *Garay* told him, that the Princial of the Divine Elixir (so the Chimists call the perfection of their Work) was formed of solid Mercury, and other things

he named, together with the Urine and Excrements of a Red Hair'd Child; that all was to be put into an Alembick, with Powder of Aloes, the Infusion of Opium, Toads greaſe, Arſnick, and Saltpeter; but he hop'd to do it chiefly with the aforeſaid Urine and Excrements, which he ordered *Octavio* by all means to procure, as being the moſt neceſſary Ingredient of all.

He promiſed to find it out, and to begin the Work, he deliverd *Garay* 500 Crowns in Gold to buy ſome precious Drugs he ſaid were neceſſary; and this the *Italian* did the more willingly, as well out of the Confidence he had to receive ſo many Thouſands, as out of a Deſign he had thought on the Night before, of making *Roſina* his Wife, and by that means aſſuring himſelf of *Garay*. Whereupon that very Evening after Supper, he took Occaſion to take *Garay* along with him into the Garden, and acquainted him with his Reſolution. The Alchimiſt thought it a good way to further his main Deſign, and accordingly he approved of his Motion, and acknowledg'd it would be a great Honour to his Neice to be Wife to ſo worthy a Perſon; but that there was one Obſtacle to be firſt removed. What may that be, ſays *Octavio*? *Garay* told him, That his Neice could not be Married without a Diſpenſation firſt obtained from *Rome*, in regard that out of the extraordinary Regret ſhe conceived for the loſs of her late Husband, ſhe made a Vow to enter into a Religious Life; that the Occaſion of their going to *Madrid*, was to receive 6 Years Arrears of Rent, due to them from a Perſon

and that upon receiving the ſame, ſhe would retire into a Nunnery; but as ſoon as the Diſpenſation came from *Rome*, they would conſummate the Marriage, which he doubted not but *Roſina* would accept, not only out of the Complaiſance ſhe had always ſhewed to his Deſires, but alſo upon the conſideration that ſhe was to Match her ſelf with a Perſon inclin'd to the Study of a Science wherein ſhe had naturally attained ſo great a Perfection. The *Italian* was the moſt ſatisfied Man in the World, to hear ſuch a parcel of good Words given him, inſomuch that from that very Hour, *Garay* became abſolute Maſter of his Eſtate.

Garay and *Roſina* having confer'd Notes upon this new Propoſal were more confident than ever of compaſſing their intended Robbery: He freely laid out his Money received of the Merchant in Drugs, perſuading him they were not to be had under ſuch and ſuch Prices. He alſo furniſh'd himſelf with new Furnaces, Crucibles, and Alembicks, pretending that thoſe in the Houſe before, were not for his purpoſe. In the mean time, the ſilly Cully was enquiring up and down for the Urine of a Red-headed Child; which he had much ado to procure, for the Mothers fearing it was to be uſed in ſome kind of Witchcraft, would not eaſily let him have it; but Money is powerful, and can do any thing. *Garay* could have done as much in one Day as in an Hundred, as to the performance of what he had promiſed, but the poor Merchant muſt be deluded ſome way or other,

as he could carry away on two good Horſes which lay conceal'd for that purpoſe.

He diſpos'd all the Diſtillations into the Furnaces in the preſence of *Octavio*, be bought ſome Metals, as Braſs, Copper, Tin, ſeveral ſorts of Salts, and other Materials commonly uſed by Chimiſts, and putting Fire to the Furnaces, they Diſtill'd what had been put into them, but contributed nothing to the Buſineſs, and tended only to abuſe him who was at the charge of all this Foolery. As to *Octavio*'s Courtſhip, he was much better treated than before, in as much as ſince the Propoſals of Marriage, *Roſina* the better to carry on the Cheat, grew more kind to him, eſpecially in *Garay*'s Abſence, which ſo beſotted the Coxcomb, that he thought himſelf the moſt happy Man in the World.

Octavio about this time, received a Bill of Exchange of a conſiderable Sum, which he was to pay within 20 Days after Sight; this, with the Breaking of ſome of his Debtors in other Countries, made him afraid he muſt do the like, if his Attempts in Chimiſtry proved unſucceſsful. But to prevent all Inconveniences, he did what moſt of his Quality are wont to do, who being upon the point of Breaking, ſecure what they can of their Eſtates, that they may afterwards the more commodiouſly move into ſome other Country. So our Merchant finding himſelf by the vain Expences he had been at, within a ſmall diſtance of marching off, provided for the Misfortune in caſe it ſhould happen, and ſo promoted the miſchievous Plot of *Garay* and *Roſina*, whom he truly acquainted with the

faithful Relations. *Octavio* accompanied with *Garay*, left in the Custody of a certain Friend of his, a good Sum of Money, and several Jewels of great Value, with Order that they should not be delivered to any but one of them two. Besides which, he brought some to his Country House, and hid them in a secret place in the Presence of *Rosina*, in whom he placed as much Confidence, as if she really had been his Wife. *Garay* who was still busy in his Distillations, gave him hopes that in 20 Days, he should see the great Secret brought to perfection, and his House full of Gold, to retrieve all the Losses he had received.

There now happened an Affair, which obliged *Octavio* to take a Journey, to advise with a Correspondent of his, how to prevent the Misfortune that hung over his Head. *Garay* and *Rosina* being entrusted with the House, thought it a fair Opportunity to dislodge, and make the best they could of the present Game, they secured all the Money and Jewels they could come at, and left the Plate and some other things they could not conveniently carry away behind them, though with some Regret; thinking it more Prudence to make a safe Retreat with what was considerable, than to hazard all by grasping too much. Having therefore loaded themselves with what was most valuable, they left the Furnaces and the Alembicks, and gain'd the Philosopher's Stone at the Cost of the absent Merchant. They took Horse while all the Servants in the House were asleep, and made their way towards *Malaga*; they travell'd all Night, ha-

ney and Jewels, and *Garay* left upon the Table near the Furnaces, a Paper to abuſe the credulous Merchant.

Two Days after their Departure, *Octavio* returns, very much unſatisfied with his Journey, having not ſucceeded in the Buſineſs he went about. All the hope he now had was in his Uncle *Garay*, imagining that by his means he ſhould yet be able to ſhew his head, and not only keep up his Reputation, but alſo be richer than ever he had been, ſuch a ſtrange Miſt had the Witchcraft of Chimiſtry caſt before his Eyes.

He came not to his Country Houſe till after Night, where he found the Servant whom he had with *Garay* and *Roſina*, for the reſt of his People were gone into the City. The Servant receiv'd him with a ſad Countenance, and being got up Stairs, fearing ſomething was amiſs, he asked him where his Gueſts were? Of whom the Servant could give no Account, as not having ſeen them when they went out, and could only inform him, That two Nights before, they had lock'd him into the Room where he lay, which he had been forced to break open, becauſe he could not otherwiſe get out; they ſearched about, and found the Cheſts open and the Money carried away. This was not the worſt that the Merchant feared, but that they had alſo been with him, in whoſe Cuſtody he had greater Sums, and many valuable Jewels: But it being too late that Night, he thought it beſt to go to Bed, but being deſirous to viſit the Furnaces once more, he finds on the Table the Paper left by *Garay*, which having open'd, he read as follows.

Seignior Octavio,

IT is the juſt Reward of thoſe who attempt things impoſſible to be ſhamefully diſappointed. Many of your Profeſſion have been ruined by their great Faith in things relating to their Trade; it was therefore but fit you ſhould repent your Credulity in a buſineſs you underſtand not. It was indeed unpardonable, to expect to ſee that done by any Man in a few Days, which the Sun, who hath a greater Power over the Mettal you are ſo deſirous of, cannot perfect under 4, or 500 Years. Your Loſs, (I muſt confeſs) is great, but you have this comfortable Conſideration, that you may now deſie Chimiſtry, and all its cheating Profeſſors, to ſhew you ſuch another Trick as we have done. But to avoid all future Temptations, take this Cordial Advice from a dear Friend of yours. Put all the Treatiſes you have of that pernicious Art into your Furnaces, and having ſet Fire to them & your Houſe together, fairly run away by the Light of it.

The poor *Merchant* had no ſooner read this, but he was convinc'd they were his kind gueſts that had Rob'd him, and extracted what he had in his Cheſts and Cabinets with a great deal more eaſe, than he had infus'd it in them. How he ſpent the Night, is only to be imagined, being juſt upon the point of Breaking, and not knowing any means how to remedy it. All the hope he had, was, that the Money and Jewels he left in his Friend's Hands, were ſafe enough; nay, he deſpair'd not to find out thoſe that had done him the miſchief. He turn'd himſelf from one ſide to another, not out of any diſturbance occaſion'd by his Love to the ſubtle *Roſina*, for that was abſolutely vaniſh'd with his Money, but that he had been ſo baſely abuſed by a Beggarly Raſ-

miſtry, and all the Authors that ever writ of it; whereas he ſhould rather have been glad, that by the Cheat put upon him, he had been prevented from the Proſecution of his Project, which might have abſolutely ruined him.

As ſoon as Day appeared, he got up, and went into the City to his Friend, whom he entruſted with his Money and Jewels, and asked him, whether *Garay* had been with him, who anſwered yes, and had taken away all that was in his Cuſtody two Days before, according to his Order. That Word ſtruck him almoſt Dead, nay, the Reſentment he expreſs'd of that Loſs was ſo great, that if the other had not known the Cauſe of it, he would have thought him abſolutely diſtracted. He comforted him the beſt he could, and told him his only Courſe was to make a ſpeedy ſearch after the Robbers. He did his utmoſt to that purpoſe, ſending Officers and others ſeveral ways: But that the Road which *Garay* had taken was ſo extraordinary, that they could never meet with them. So they returned to *Corduba*, to be paid for their fruitleſs purſuit by him who had ſent them, which as his Affairs then ſtood, was no little Aggravation to his Affliction. This Adventure was ſoon known all over the City, and the Merchant not being able to accept of another Bill of Exchange that was ſent him, was forc'd to abſent himſelf, and to return home with what he could make by the Sale of his Goods.

The LIFE of *Donna Roſina*, &c.

The Third Part.

GARAY and *Roſina* Rid on a good round pace, but Travelled through obſcure ways for four days and nights without taking up their Lodging in any Town or Village, but lay in the open Fields, for fear of being diſcovered by the Officers whom they doubted not but the *Italian* had ſent out to ſearch after them. They ſhifted their Cloaths and having diſguiſed themſelves as well as they could, carefully avoided all places where they had the leaſt apprehenſion they ſhould be known. It was *Garay*'s Province to provide Victuals, and being in the Spring they found no great inconvenience to lie abroad in the open Air. They got into a Wood about Sun-ſet, and fearing that a thick Cloud which overſhadowed them might break upon them with too much violence, by reaſon it had Thundred and Lightned, ſome time before, they retired into the thickeſt part of it for their ſecurity. Other Paſſengers from the ſame apprehenſion, had taken

Roſina were. The noiſe they made in diſcourſing raiſed in *Garay* a Curioſity to go and over-hear what they ſaid, and perceived thro' the thick Buſhes they were three Men, one ſpeaking thus to the others.

If this Tempeſt laſt all Night, I doubt we ſhall be diſappointed of our deſign; I fear it too, ſays the other, and no queſtion but the Hermit of *La Sene* will be out of patience having expected us ſo long; Oh, that Brother *Criſpen* is an excellent Fellow, ſays the third, his Religious Cowl covers a great deal of villany, and he is ſo inſinuating in his behaviour, that he is very much in their favour who beſtowed the Hermitage upon him. He is ſo Tranſcedent an Hypocrite, cryes the other, that he is able to blind all the World; He hath the reputation of a virtuous Perſon all over the Country, and yet there is not ſo conſummate a Raſcal to be found within twenty Leagues of his Abode; I have been acquainted with him theſe twelve years, ſays the Second, and his Profeſſion hath been to receive Thieves and their Booties, wherein he hath been ſo Fortunate as never to be ſuppoſed guilty of any ſuch Crime of that kind; whereas ſo many poor Rogues have been Truſſed up at their firſt falling into the hands of Juſtice. It muſt needs be acknowledged, Says another, that this Hermitage is a very convenient place for Perſons of our Profeſſion, and the Cellar he hath made under it, is ſuch a place as Old *Nicholas* himſelf would never find out. We could never have met with a more ſecure place, to put up the Fifteen Hundred Crowns we disburthen'd the Merchant of Yeſterday

hath been committed in this Country a lon
time. If it would but hold up a little, ſa
the firſt Man, I hope to get a great Prize befor
it be day.

They then adviſed upon the means how t
execute their deſign. *Garay* miſs'd not
Word of all that had been ſpoken, being wel
acquainted with that Country as if he ha
been born in it, and new the Hermit ver
well, whom till then he had accounted a Per
ſon of great Sanctity, ſo far was he from ima
gining that he drove ſuch a Trade, and tha
his Hermitage for many Years, had been th
refuge of Highwaymen and Houſe-Breakers.

Having made this ſtrange diſcovery, he re
turns to the place where he had left *Roſina*
and gave her an account of what he had hear
from thoſe Robbers. They continued ther
without making any noiſe, till the other
were gone, contriving how to make thei
advantage of that unexpected adventure
and making their way to a blind Inn not fa
off, continued there till next morning; Ha
ving in that time conſidered what to do, the
went both towards the Hermitage, wher
Brother *Criſpen* the Hermit lived, and bein
come within a ſmall diſtance of it, *Gar*
bound *Roſina* to a Tree, upon which ſhe cry
out as hard as poſſible, Is there no Body th
will relieve a wretched Woman ready to b
murdered here; Or Revenge the Injury don
to my Innocence; *Garay* repiles, 'Tis in va
to call any Body to thy relief, thou haſt n
long to live, therefore prepare thy ſelf fo
Death, for thou ſhalt not eſcape out of m
hands, and I will quickly diſpatch thee in

Criſpen heard her cry out, being alone in the Hermitage, which ſeldom happened; for moſt nights he had the Company of ſome of the Tribe, who though given to Watchings, yet were never fam'd either for Sanctity or performing Miracles. He came out with two pocket Piſtols, and being got near the place whence he heard the noiſe, diſcharged one of them, which happened very luckily for *Garay*, it being concluded between him and *Roſina* that as ſoon as any came near them he ſhould run away, and the ſhooting of the Piſtol, giving him notice of ſome apprehenſion, he mounted on his Horſe, and led away the other with all the ſpeed he could. *Criſpen* coming near the Tree, by the light of the Moon perceived *Roſina* weeping moſt bitterly, and ſeeming aſtoniſhed through the fright ſhe was in. Seeing the Hermit coming toward her; what art thou return'd Traytor, ſaid ſhe, will nothing deter thee from executing thy cruel deſign; Come and take away my Life, and put an end to my further trouble, and doubt not but one time or other, though I be not reſcued out of thy bloody hands, yet vengeance will overtake thee, and clear my innocence. The irreligious Hypocrite hearing her diſcourſe, and perceiving ſhe thought he came to do her miſchief, made Anſwer, Madam I am not the Perſon you ſuppoſe me to be, but am come to relieve you in this extremity, and to ſave your Life; what's become of the Villain who would have taken it from you, and hath obliged me, contrary to the Rules of my Profeſſion, to uſe Fire-Arms in your defence? not doub-

Having unbound her, *Rosina* cast her self at his feet saying, It must needs be Brother *Crispen*, (for she knew his Name) that the violence intended against me has been revealed to you, since you came so miraculously to my Rescue; and with Arms so unusual to your Profession; Doubtless you will be Rewarded for the Charitable assistance you have given to an innocent Woman; I cannot express the greatness of the kindness you have done me, otherwise than by thanks and Acknowledgments, as being oblig'd to you for no less than my Life, which the unnatural Fury of a Brother was just going to deprive me of.

Crispen was extreamly pleased with the Woman; for notwithstanding he was a Fryar, and had made a Vow of Chastity, yet he had a great Passion for the whole Sex, but was Master of so much modesty and Reservedness that he would not begin any Amorous discourse and continuing his pretended Sanctity, My dear Sister, said he, I think my self very far from deserving all the Favours I enjoy from my Creator, and do all that lies im my power to Live virtuously in this Solitary place where I have been now an Instrument to save your Life; and am extreamly glad I have perform'd any thing to your satisfaction. For this Night I can only afford you such accommodation as a poor Cell can afford, where you may continue till you have Settled your Affairs, and Reconciled your self to your Brother, I assure you it is absolutely at your service, and I offer it you with the most Cordial Affection; For I had not put my self into

Roſina renewed her thanks to him for the vil Offers he made her, burſting forth a-eſh into feigned Tears, a thing which ſome Vomen can do when they pleaſe, but ſhe had e nack of it above any. She gladly accep-d his kindneſs, as conducing very much to e deſign ſhe and *Garay* had laid. They there-on walked toward the Hermitage, and other *Criſpen*, obſerving that *Roſina* was mewhat weary, endeavoured to comfort r with all the kind words he could think of, d at laſt took her by the Arm to ſupport r. He opened the door of the Hermitage, d when they were got in, *Roſina* was much priz'd to obſerve a rugged place on the ound which he ſaid was his Bed, with a ucifix at the head of it; and on one ſide a ourge hanging on a Nail againſt the Wall mpoſed of many knotted Whip-Cords, erewith his credulous Zealots were made believe he diſciplin'd himſelf; The reſt of Furniture conſiſted on a little rotten Ta-, which being oft removed had brought r feet to three.

Roſina finding the Room ſo meanly fur-h'd, and the Perſon who made his abode re ſo mortified and reſerv'd in his behavi-, began to repent that ever ſhe came thi-r, and imagined that *Garay* had miſunder-d the Conference of the Robbers in the ood; But the devout Hermit put her out er Dumps; for taking notice of her look-ſtrangely at the accommodations of his , My dear Siſter, ſaid he, you may think a very poor Lodging, and that you ſhall e but an ill nights Reſt; but be not troub-

think for; It was your happineſs to come a
this time when there was no Perſons here up
on there Spiritual Retreats, which ſome de
vout Souls of your Sex are wont to make a
this Hermitage, ſometimes 8 or 10 days to
gether. Some of theſe for the greater conve
niency of their Devotion have ſent their Bed
hither and ſome other Houſehold Goods; Ah, in
comparable Hypocrite, For it was a horri
Lie, he having for his own eaſe Soft Quilt
and other neceſſaries, with a Bed or Two fo
entertaining his ſecret Comrades who cam
often to viſit him. Theſe conveniences wer
diſpoſed into a low Room, which was alſo
Treaſury where theſe Birds of Prey ſecure
ſuch Money and Goods as the Owners o
them never intended ſhould be acquainte
with the Place.

He thereupon deſired her to have a litt
patience till he went down and fetch'd h
ſome Bed-cloaths, and then made her a Bed i
a little Cell at ſome diſtance from his ow
They had a better Supper than *Roſina* expecte
there being ſome boil'd Meat and Broth, an
a cold Rabbit, which *Criſpen* pretended ha
been left at the Hermitage by one of his p
nitents, a devout old Gentlewoman, who
he was extreamly oblig'd to, and to cl
their Stomachs they had ſome excellent Fru
according to the Seaſon.

Roſina was a Woman much inclin'd
mirth, but at this time, offering her natur
diſpoſition ſome violence, ſhe ſeem'd ve
melancholy and Reſerved; and ſo continu
all the time they were at Supper, eating l
tle, the better to expreſs her uneaſineſs,

he Hermit likewiſe pretended he had no eat Stomach, whether the Meat was not eſs'd to his Mind, or that he did it out of omplaiſance to his fair Lodger. After Sup-r the Hermit deſirous to know of *Roſina* hy her own Brother would have taken a-ay her Life, entreated her to give him an count of it, which ſhe did in the following omantick Relation.

THough it cannot but Add very much to my affliction to make a Rehearſal of e occaſion thereof; yet the many undeſer-d Favours you have beſtowed upon me, y Dear Brother, would render me a very grateful Perſon to deny you the ſatisfaction u deſire, whom you have ſo highly oblig'd. was born in the City of *Almeria*, of noble rents, my Anceſtors having been famous ere for ſeveral Ages. All the Children they d were only my ſelf and my Brother, who a year older than I; There were ſome who ought the face you now ſee not unhandſome, t is in other words, ſeveral Perſons cour-d me in order to Marriage; but my Bro-er oppos'd it as much as lay in his power, etending ſome defects in all the young Gen-men that Courted me, either as to their tates or Families; My Father and Mother t this World and me in it before I was fif-n years old; and I believe the true Cauſe my Brother's Refuſals proceeded from a de-e he had that I ſhould go into a Nunnery, here I had two Aunts, and ſo he might get rt of the Fortune my Father left me. I diſ-ered his deſign by his continual preſſing

tion to that kind of Life, and therefore anſwered him accordingly, which ſo incenſed him, that he was never kind to me ſince.

While theſe things were in Agitation, a young Gentleman who had left *Almeria*, before he was Ten Years of Age, return'd from *Flanders*, where for the good Service he had done his Majeſty, he had been advanc'd to the Command of a Company of Foot, and a Troop of Horſe. He appear'd accordingly in very good Equipage, both as to Cloaths and Horſes; he had a conſiderable Eſtate, and had not received any thing from it ſince his Departure from *Almeria*, ſo that there was a good Sum due to him. He one day chanc'd to ſee me at Maſs, and lik'd me ſo well, that he inquired who I was,; ſome Perſon gave him an Account of me, and ſoon after, he began to make his Addreſſes to me, and to Court me by Letters and Preſents. To make my Story ſhort, I was not inſenſible of his Affection, and conſidering with my ſelf the Equality of our Birth, and the excellent Endowments he was Maſter of, I complyed with his Love, and admitted him into the Houſe; but upon the Aſſurance he gave me that his Addreſſes were only in order to Marriage. He viſited me with much Freedom, for my Brother was ſick of a Diſeaſe that brought him into a languiſhing Condition. I wiſh it had carried him off, my Condition had not then been ſo unhappy as now it is.

One of my former Admirers being much diſturb'd to ſee a new Comer ſo much in my Favour, began to watch him, and in a ſhort time ſaw him come out of our Houſe at an

Ungentile Advantage of that Diſcovery, for envying any that ſhould obtain what he ſo much deſired, he gave an Account to my Brother of what was acted in his Houſe, and of which, he was in part an Eye witneſs. My Brother, who had recovered ſo much ſtrength as to get up, was confirmed in his own Obſervation in what had been told him, yet could not be reveng'd on me becauſe of his preſent Weakneſs, but reſolv'd to take the firſt Opportunity to do it, being exceedingly incenſed that I had engaged my Affections to that Captain, he having had ſome Difference with his Elder Brothers, and had not ſince been Reconciled.

At laſt my Brother recovered his former Health, and finding the Captain was gone from *Almeria*, he ſaid he would carry me to ſee an Aunt of ours at *Malaga*, who was a Nun, of the order of *Bernard*; I believed him, and not imagining he knew any thing of my correſpondence with the Captain, I was very glad of the opportunity to Viſit that Aunt, whom I was much obliged to, for ſeveral Rarities ſhe had ſent me of her own Working. We prepared our ſelves for the Journey, and rode each of us on a ſingle Horſe, with two Servants to wait on us. Being come into the Wood near this place, he ordered the two Servants to go before and provide Lodgings for us; and coming to the place where you found me, juſt about Sun-ſet he threw me off my Horſe, and put me into the condition you diſcovered me in, and where I had undoubtedly been murdered, had not you fortunately Relieved me, and by diſcharging your Piſtol

the Villany he intended; And may the charitable assistance you were pleased to afford me never want of a Reward, far above what my hearty thanks and Acknowledgments are able to bestow upon you.

The Hermit having heard this doleful Legend, endeavoured to comfort her, promising to do any thing for her that was in his power; whereupon they parted for that Night and went to their several Beds; She to that which he had provided her, and he to another in a secret Place very well furnish'd. For however he deluded the World with a pretended Austerity, he loved his ease as well as any man. He was deeply fallen in Love with *Rosina*, and extream desirous to acquaint her with his Passion, but for fear of Scandal he was a little Reserved. He spent the whole night without Sleeping, and in contriving how he might make her sensible of his Affection.

As soon as it was Day light he got up, and *Rosina* not long after, who going into the Chappel belonging to the Hermitage, found him upon his Knees before the Altar, which obliged her to do the like at a little distance from Him. He observed her, and though fit to continue his Devotion a while, but not without much Distraction, for he could not keep his Eyes of on her, to such a Height was his Love grown in one Night. On the other hand, *Rosina*, who was as well vers'd in Hypocrisy as himself, was resolved to outvie him in kneeling, in which posture she continued longer than was for her Ease; at last perceiving that *Crispen* had finished his Orations, she also ended hers, whereupon the

ſanctified Brother comes to her, ſaying, May you live happily, dear Siſter, the reſt of your Days, and enjoy all the Pleaſures of Body and Mind you can wiſh for: Pray tell me, (moſt excellent Creature of the Creation) how you reſted laſt Night? Very well, (beloved Brother) replyed ſhe, thanks be to your kindneſs, though my preſent Troubles will not quite free me from Diſquiet. There is nothing more diſcovers a devout Soul, (ſaid *Criſpin*) than a ſweet and humble Compliance and Satisfaction in our preſent Condition. And here he pauſed ſome time, till his Paſſion renewed it ſelf thus.

Madam, when I conſider the ſtrange Effects of Beauty, how it tranſports Men out of their Senſes, I cannot chuſe but pity and excuſe them, becauſe the frailer part of Man aims at its own Satisfaction, and the Heart is naturally inclin'd to deſire that which the Eye contemplates with a certain pleaſure; eſpecially having for its Object the moſt delightful thing that ever Nature fram'd. When I firſt left the World, I made a Reſolution, (if poſſible) to avoid the Converſation of the Fair Sex, which is not undeſervedly called *The Fairer Half of the World*, but when Manhood came, I concluded that to fly the Charms of Women, was wholly Angelical, and I now find that there is an abſolute Neceſſity I ſhould keep out of your Sight, Adorable Lady, leſt I fall into the Snare that the Tempter is laying for me. The Sum of this Diſcourſe, Madam, is to evince, that beautiful Faces are very dangerous, and that ſince my firſt view of yours, I feel my Chaſtity in

beseech you, to hear me talk at this rate: this Discourse, I confess, is a little unsuitable to the Habit I wear, and the Profession I have embraced, but these have not unman'd me, and consequently not exempted me from human Frailties.

At these Words, the Hypocrite seem'd to blush, thereby to express Shame, which he was really never acquainted with. *Rosina* with a counterfeit Modesty, seem'd to do the like; but thinking of the most probable way to bring about her main Design, she would not give him an absolute Denial, but returned him this Answer.

Brother *Crispen*, Though I know my self not to be of their number, who by their beauty may engage Men into any disquiet, yet I must own your Opinion, that the Charms of Beauty are so powerful, that I my self, tho' a Woman, am transported therewith as well as others, and know no greater Pleasure than contemplating an handsome Face, and admiring the Effects of it; I do not wonder that Men are reduced to some Extremities when they are passionately in Love, since it is manifest, that the force of Beauty operates with an extraordinary Influence; so that I am not much surprized to see it hath its Effects as well on those who are retired out of the world, as on other Persons who are under no such Restraint; since they have not attained to any degree of Perfection, nor purified from all the dross of human Enjoyments: I have reason to think therefore, that I am more obliged to the Charity you have shew'd me, because I understand your extending it to

Quiet, and the Occaſion of ſome Scandal; I could wiſh with all my Heart, that I were not the cauſe of ſo much trouble in the world, but in regard here are none but our ſelves, you need fear nothing as to that particular. You are deſirous to know the Hiſtory of my Adventures, I have no leſs a Curioſity to be acquainted with yours, and particularly what might have obliged you to leave the World ſo young for the ſake of this ſolitary Place?

Roſina's Diſcourſe was ſuch as the counterfeit Hermit could have wiſh'd, and being Elevated with Joy, told her in plain Terms, that her unparallell'd Beauty had ſo enchanted him to love her, that from the firſt Minute ſhe came into the Houſe, he had not enjoyed any Reſt. *Roſina*, who ſtill had an Eye to her own Buſineſs, entertained his Diſcourſe with ſomewhat of Kindneſs, excuſing it upon the Account of Natural Inclination; ſo giving him ſome Hopes that he ſhould obtain his deſires, he ſeemed to be the moſt ſatisfied Perſon in the World. *Roſina* pretended an Indiſpoſition, and kept her Bed for two days together, being Treated in the mean-time, by her Amorous Entertainer with the beſt Proviſions that could be had for Money, which was brought to the Hermitage in the Night-time by his Fellow-Cheats.

It may ſeem ſtrange, that *Roſina* ſhould have the Courage to continue in that ſolitary Place, in the Company of a Perſon, of whoſe Wickedneſs, ſhe had ſufficient Knowledge; but ſhe knew withal the Paſſion he had for her, and concluded thence. That real Love never being without Reſpect, ſhe could not imagine he would do her any Injury, (ſo

ally considering she had given him hopes o
further Favours from her, as soon as she ha
certain Notice that her Brother had left *Ma*
laga.

That Night, *Crispin's* three intimate Com
rades came to the Hermitage, bringing wi
them above two Thousand Crowns in Gol
This was the Robbery concluded upon whe
Garay overheard them in the Wood. Th
Discovery had been made by *Crispin* in a
House of the City where he was wont to re
ceive Alms, and the Rain having prevente
the Execution thereof that Night, they ha
now done their Business, by thrusting a lit
Boy into the Window of the House wh
the Money was, who made a shift about M
night to open the Door for them.

Crispin, who was unwilling they shoul
know he had a Female in the House, receive
them in his own Cell, and treated them wit
a Supper: They discours'd of several thing
and among them was one, who having aban
doned his Studies, had ingaged himself i
that kind of Life, not regarding the Famil
from which he was descended, nor his Ac
compliſhments which were extraordinary
This Person furnish'd them with Discour
upon all Occasions. *Rosina* from the Roo
where she was placed heard all their discours
and was very glad to understand that *Crispi*
was the secret Entertainer of so vertuous
Society, and immediately concluded by the
Discourse, that they were the same Perso
whom *Garay* had over-heard. Brother *Cri*
pin reposed so much Confidence in her, tha
he was not concern'd that she should ove
hear the Project laid down by him and h

ellow Thieves, to visit those Places where ney thought there was any Booty to be had. le, as Dictator to the rest, approved of some f the Robberies proposed by them, and oppo- d others, because of the Inconveniences he reſaw would attend the Execution of them. It was by this grown very late, so that they ould not make a Dividend of their Prize at Night, leaving it in the Custody of the Hermit their faithful Steward till next Meet- g. *Crispins* Companions being gone to their Quarters, he made a Visit to *Rosina* to wish er a good Night, whom he found more earful than ever he had observ'd before; erat he was very glad. From that time began to treat the Hypocrite with more indneſs, the better to put a Trick upon an ld Sharper. *Crispin* went to Bed extreamly leas'd with her favourable Glances, and the lopes of succeeding in his Love, since he had iſcover'd his Affections to her so plainly, and id aside the Mask of his feigned Hypocriſy. The next Morning early, *Crispin's* Lodgers ft the Hermitage to seek a Livelihood at eir cost who least of all mistrusted them. The Hermit himself was soon after on his arch into the City, to beg Alms as usual f his Benefactors. He took his Leave of *Ro- na*, promising if possible, to find out her Bro- her before he returned.

Thus was she left all alone with the Her- nitage, having before-hand appointed *Garay* o come to her as soon as Brother *Crispin* was ot to *Malaga*; which he accordingly did, Mounted on one of those Horses he had rought with him. *Rosina* having heard him, pened the Door, and gave him a short Ac-

Count of what had happen'd between *Criſ*
and herſelf, but eſpecially of the Money th
was brought thither by his Comrades.
Order to rob the Thieves, they conclude
that *Garay* ſhould go back to the City, an
buy ſome ſleeping Powders to be adminiſtre
to *Criſpin* at his Return, that ſo they mig
have the whole Night to accompliſh their de
ſigns. *Garay* brought *Roſina* the Powders be
fore the Hermit got home, for he ſpent th
whole day in begging, and came not back ti
Night.

Being come home, he was very kindly re
ceived by *Roſina*, whereat he was exceedingl
Tranſported, his Love to her increaſing eve
ry Hour. He ſhewed her what he had ga
thered that Day, and beſides what was volun
tarily given him, he had felonioufly taken
ſilver Spoons, and a Necklace of Pearl. Th
Necklace he inſtantly preſented to *Roſina*, an
with many Amorous Compliments put it a
bout her Neck: She return'd him Repeate
Thanks for her Preſent: After which, they
Supp'd very merrily together, he ever an
anon Entertaining her with ſome Diſcoverie
of his Love, to which ſhe gave him very fa
vourable Anſwers, promiſing it ſhould no
be long e're ſhe would gratify him in wha
he ſo much deſired.

It had been ordered among the Robber
that frequented the Hermitage in their laſt
Committee, that there ſhould be a genera
Meeting that Night, as well for dividing the
former Booty, as to make new Propoſals
Criſpin not willing that *Roſina* ſhould be ſeen
and of whom he now expected the laſt Favour
thought it concerned him to prevent it. A

on as they were come together, he told em he had received Notice from the City, hat there was a ſtrict Search made for a Perſon that had treacherouſly murder'd another, nd ſince ſuch Places were no Sanctuaries for ſuch Criminals, he feared there would be ſome ent to the Hermitage, and if any one of them hould be apprehended for ſome other crime, e might be ſeiz'd and carried away Priſoner, nd being brought to the Torture, might onfeſs what he had not been charg'd with at is Apprehenſion. Perſons of that Profeſſion, re frightned with the leaſt Apprehenſions of Danger, which made them readily believe hat their Director had told them, left the Hermitage, adjourning the Aſſembly till the ourth Night after. By this means *Criſpin* was left alone in the Hermitage with his fair Miſtreſs, who had promiſed to give him Satisfaction that Night, he thinking every Minute an Hour, till he had poſſeſſion of that admirable Beauty.

Soon after, they ſupp'd together very magnificently, *Criſpin* having brought home with him both Wild and Tame Fowl ready for the Spit, and a good large Bottle of *Malaga* Wine. *Roſina* was the Cook, and made all things ready, and they both began to eat very heartily, their Minds being diſburthen'd from all Care and trouble. *Roſina* outdoing the Hermit at that Exerciſe; and having the Management of the Bottle, ſhe took care that he never drank without having the ſleeping Powder infuſed in his Glaſs. He took it off as freely as the Lady fill'd, till at length he fell under the Table dead Drunk. *Roſina*, to try whether

him by the Ears and Noſe to awake him, but to as little Purpoſe, as if ſhe had done it to a dead Corpſe. With that Aſſurance ſhe went into the Vault under Ground, and took out all the Money ſhe found in ſeveral Cheſts there, being no ſmall Sum; ſhe diſpos'd it into ſeveral Leathern Pouches wherein the Thieves had brought it, they having Robb'd a rich Drover who was going to *Madrid*. She then comes out, and *Garay* not far off, upon the Signal agreed on, came to her.

Having loaded the Money upon *Garay*'s Gelding, ſhe got upon the other Horſe, and they both made their Way to *Malaga*, extreamly pleaſed they had ſo dexterouſly cheated the moſt Accompliſh'd Thief in Europe: They ſoon got to the City, and took up their Quarters in an Inn, where they lay ſecure that Night.

But to return to *Criſpin*, The Sun was no ſooner up the next Morning, but he awoke, and not having the leaſt Apprehenſion of what had happen'd to him in the Night, he called for *Roſina*; recollecting himſelf ſo far, that by his exceſſive Sleepineſs he had miſs'd his ſo much wiſh'd for Opportunity, but all his Calling was to no purpoſe. He ſought her about the Houſe, in the Church, and in the Cellar; and not finding her, he went into the Fields to look for her, thinking ſome ſtrange Accident muſt needs have happen'd to her, when he found all the Doors lock'd, which ſhe had taken Care to do.

He made a ſecond Search for her, and at laſt finding his Cheſts opened, and the Bag

hat the poor innocent Woman, frightned by he Thieves, made her Escape, and lay lurking about the Neighbouring Fields, since he uppos'd she would not venture to go far in dark Night: He search'd after her till he rew weary, but she was gone far enough out f his Reach. At last, hearing no Account f her, he began to apprehend that she might e guilty of the Robbery, which struck him o the Heart. and he was ready to Hang himelf to think that so experienc'd a Rogue, and one that had been Chair-man to a Committee of Villains, should have such a base Sham put upon him by a Woman, and from thence he inferr'd, that all she had done was only to bring him into the Noose. However he went the next day (as usual) to *Malaga*, to try if he could find her in the City: *Garay* met him, but he having never before seen him, he was never the Wiser.

Rosina and *Garay* were upon their Departure for *Castile*; but she would not go till she had serv'd the Pharasaical Hermit such a scurvy Trick as she might never fear any Requital from him. She knew the time of the Meeting of the Cabal at the Hermitage, and that they might be all found together to receive the Chastisement due to their Crime, she wrote a Letter to one of the Magistrates, acquainting him with the Place and Time when he should seize these Malefactors.

This done, *Garay* and *Rosina* took their Way for *Toledo*, and while they are travelling thither, we shall give an Account of what was done upon that Letter. As soon as it was Night, the Magistrate attended by

it, and took it: He found in the first Place, *Crispin*, little thinking to receive such a Visit, yet it was seasonable, considering it saved his Life; for his Fellow Thieves began to quarrel about the Money lost, and charged *Crispin* with Treachery, and probably he had received severe Usage from them. they being three to one. Having secur'd him, they search'd the whole House, and at last going into the Vault found his Companions, as also Ladders of Cords, Pick-Locks, Iron Crows, and other Instruments, useful for Gentlemen of their Faculty: They likewise found in the Chests several pieces of Plate, and other things of Value. all undeniable Demonstrations of the devout Exercise of that impious Company: They were all taken and brought away Prisoners. *Crispin* himself being so confounded, that he knew not what Answer to make to any Question that was ask'd him, whereupon the Officers in particular reproach'd him for his Hypocrisy.

With these Reproaches and Threats of the Gallows they carried him away to the City, where they were condemned to Dye; the other three upon the Rack confessed several Crimes, charging *Crispin* to have been the Man, who gave them Intelligence how to execute the Robberies which they committed, and many times opened the Doors of Houses himself to assist them therein. As for his own part, he express'd so much Resolution and Constancy in the midst of his Torments upon the Rack, that he obstinately denied all that was laid to his Charge; yet all this could not prevent the passing Sentence upon

by reaſon of his falling into a violent Feaver in the Priſon; but his Companions were all Truſſed up out of the Way. Not long after, *Criſpin* being upon the Recovery, and like to follow the ſame Way, made his Eſcape out of Priſon at Noon Day in Women's Cloaths, to the great Surprize of the People, who long'd to ſee him Executed, and the great Trouble of the Jaylor, who was thought to have conniv'd thereat, by being corrupted with Money; but he clear'd himſelf by producing the Perſon who had furniſh'd him with the Cloaths wherewith he diſguiſed himſelf; who for that Crime was condemned to the Gallies.

Roſina and *Garay* were by this Arrived at the Imperial City of *Toledo*, where they had reſolved to ſettle themſelves, and to gain the greater Reputation, ſhe pretended that *Garay* was her Father, and took a fine Houſe in the moſt eminent Street of the City; her Train conſiſting of a Slave ſhe had bought at *Malaga*, a Waiting-Woman, a Lackey, and a Gentleman Uſher, when ſhe lived at *Toledo*. She put on the Habit of a Widow, and went by the Name of *Donna Emeritana*, pretending to be Deſcended from an illuſtrious Family of that Name in the Kingdom of *Portugal*. *Garay* was decently cloathed for a Man of his Age, and called himſelf *Don Jeronimo*. She bought rich Houſhod Goods, ſuitable to a Widow of Quality, and was accordingly viſited by the principal Ladies of the Neighbourhood, who were extreamly pleaſed with the Charms both of her Beauty and Converſation. Going every Day to Maſs in the

of the young Beau's of the City, and she being newly come to *Toledo*, several young Sparks were taken with her Beauty, and made their Addresses to her.

While she was informing herself who was the Richest and likely to have the most Money, that she might not forget her old Trade for want of Practice, we shall leave her, and take a turn to *Malaga*, to see what became of *Crispin* after his Escape out of Prison.

Finding himself once more at Liberty, he left *Malaga*, and got into a Wood not far from the City, where he continued all Night, and then went into the Hermitage, where he had lived many Years with the Repute of a Saint. As soon as he was convicted of the Crimes laid to his Charge, another Hermit who was counted a pious Man, succeeded in his place, who went about to several Churches, begging Alms to build a little Hospital for Strangers in that place. He was not quite settled in the Hermitage, the Place not being yet furnished, *Crispin* got thither in the night, and found a place where he had laid up something against a rainy Day; breaking up the Ground, he came to a little Earthen Pot, wherein was a Bag, and in it all the Money he had reserved of all the Robberies he had been Engaged in.

With that Sum, which might amount to 5 or 600 Pound Sterling all in Gold, he went to the City of *Jaen*, where he had a Friend of the same Occupation. This Comrade of his heard how he had got out of Prison, whereat he was very glad, being before apprehensive that he might have confess'd upon the Rack

both engaged together. He received him with great Affection, in hopes of his direction and assistance in some new Enterprises; *Crispin* was but meanly accoutred, as having been uncased of the Hermit's Habit, which he shewed himself unworthy of; but the Bag he brought so well lin'd, was a sovereign remedy against Nakedness. He gave his Companion money to buy a light colour'd Suit of Cloaths and a Perriwig, cutting off his long Beard, which with a Sword by his side, alter'd him so much, that he seem'd quite another Man. In that Equipage he continued some time at *Jaen*, till there happened an Opportunity to commit a considerable Robbery at *Andujar*, and the Booty was nicely divided between him and his Companion. But fearing diligent Search would be made after them for this Prank, *Crispin* thought it his best Course to be gone from thence in time, the Adventure at *Malaga* being still fresh in his Mind.

They took into their Company a third Person, whom they met with by chance; a young Man born in the City of *Valentia*, they then came to *Toledo*. Their young Accomplice was called *Javino*, a poor Rope-maker's Son of *Valencia*, who for some Roguish Exploits he had done there, whereby he had gained a considerable Sum of Money, was obliged to absent himself from thence for several Years. He was a handsome, fair-hair'd, sprightly young Man, and besides the Accomplishments of his Person, had an admirable Wit, being not inferior to *Crispin* and his other Com-

This young Debauchee went al-
fine, at the Charge of the

verb, *Fast Bind, Fast Find.* He had an Art to transform his Cloathes that he got by slight of Hand, into the newest Mode, so disguising them by changing their Laces and Trimming, that the true Owners could not have known them. One Holiday he put on a very rich Suit, and went along with *Crispin* to the great Church, and into the same Chappel where *Rosina* was at her Devotions under the name of *Donna Emeritana*, and though she was in a Widow's Habit, *Crispin* knew her at first Sight with a secret Satisfaction. He shewed *Rosina* to his Companion Don *Javino*, and having desired him to follow her, so as that she might not perceive it, he did it so cunningly, that he kept his Eye on her, tho' seeming to look another Way, till he saw her go into her House. He was very glad to hear from the Neighbours, that she lived there in great Reputation under the Name of *Donna Emeritana*, lately come from *Badajos* with her Father to live at *Toledo*.

Crispin, to be reveng'd on her, swore that he would not leave *Toledo* till he had called her to an Account for the Money she had carried away from the Hermitage, together with the Interest, and all the Charges of his Imprisonment. To compass his Design, he instructed *Javino* what he should do and whom he should represent, without making any real Discovery of himself to her. Not long after, an Opportunity offer'd it self to prosecute the Design they had agree'd upon. One Evening about an Hour before Night, there happen'd to be a Quarrel in the Street where *Rosina* li[ved]. the Officers of Justice were presently

es to be dreſs'd, ſecuring ſome others that happened to be then in the Street, though not at all engag'd in the Quarrel, which occaſioned others to run, it being no great pleaſure to come into Trouble and Reſtraint for other Men's Crimes.

Criſpin's Plot took its Riſe from this Quarrel, and *Javino* inſtructed by that ſubtle Hypocrite, had taken the Croſs of Kt. of the Order of *Monteſa*, an Honour beſtowed by the King, only on the natural Inhabitants of the Kingdom of *Valencia*; and to that purpoſe, he had made him a very handſome black Suit. In this Garb, being come to *Roſina*'s Houſe, and having given his Cloak to *Criſpin*, he went in with his Sword drawn, acting the part of a Man much Aſtoniſh'd, and finding the door open, he goes up, and came into the Room where *Roſina* and her Maids were: they were a little ſtartled to ſee a Man ruſh into the Room after that manner, and ſeeming much diſordered; *Roſina* roſe from her Seat, and the Gentleman falling on his Knees, he thus Addreſs'd her,

'If Compaſſion be not a ſtranger to ſo fair 'a Creature, be pleaſed Madam, to permit 'me to take Sanctuary in your Houſe againſt 'the Officers of Juſtice, by whom I am pur-'ſu'd; That I have killed a Man, I muſt ac-'knowledge, but it was in my Defence in this 'Street, where he ſet upon me with Advan-'tage; the Officers were in cloſe purſuit of 'me, and I had been infallibly taken, had I 'not couragiouſly defended my ſelf againſt 'two; who with the Commiſſary, had al-moſt ſeiz'd me by the Collar. I eſcap'd [illegible]

'since it is Prudence in a Man to give way to the Magistrate whom he is oblig'd to respect. But still persisting in their Pursuit, I found your House open for my safety, and have taken the Boldness to shut the Door after me, and to come up into your Chamber; I therefore most humbly beseech you, Madam, if it may be done without any Inconvenience to you, to dispose me into some secret place in your House, till the People are dispers'd and that I may safely go hence, But if my Presumption puts you into any Distraction, or creates you any Trouble, be pleased to give me the least Signal, and I will instantly go out into the Street, tho' I were sure to lose my Life, rather than cause any Uneasiness to such an Accomplish'd Lady.

Rosine looking earnestly upon him, and she who never lov'd any thing comparable to Money, immediately found a strong Inclination in herself to that young Man, who seemed as Eloquent as Handsome; and thereupon return'd him this Answer,

'You have done me but Justice, Sir, when you thought me sensible of Honour and Compassion; Persons in my Condition are never destitute thereof, especially to'ards such as your self; I presume by what I observe, that you are a Person of Quality, and therefore sympathizing with your troubles, I cordially offer you the use of my House, to continue in it as long as you shall think fit, for avoiding the Pursuit of those that seek after you, it not being just that you should fall into their Hands, since by my

'Danger; Fear not any thing here, for tho' 'the Officers should come into the House, 'I will secure you in such a secret Place, that 'they shall never discover you.

The Young Beau gave her a thousand thanks for so signal a Favour, which obliged her to make him this farther discourse; You are very sensible Sir by the Habit I am in, with what Reservedness I ought to live in my house, and yet I freely confirm to you the security you promise your self in it, till you have accommodated your Affairs, But I have a Father now from home, who will expect an account of my demeanour; and if at his return, which possibly may be this day, he will entertain you in a Room in his Lodgings, as I am confident he will think it an honour, I shall be content. The young Gallant renewed his acknowledgments for those repeated assurances, and expressed himself so genteely, that she was still the more pleased with him.

In the mean time his Fellow Robbers knock'd very confidently at the door, calling upon them to open it to the Officers of Justice, whom they personated. The Servants were at first a little started, but *Rosina* soon recovering out of the small disorder which appeared in her countenance, took *Javina* by the hand, and led him into an upper Room, which had a double Partition, and before it a peice of Hangings, and putting him in there left him, being confident that it could be impossible to find him out. This done she went to open the door, and *Crispin* impudently enters, without the least fear of being known in his present disguise. He

Lanthorns and Fire Arms, rudely rush into the Room where *Rosina* was. *Crispin* gave her a kind salute, and Counterfeiting his Voice, as he had done his Person, I know Madam, said he, that we may seem guilty of some Incivility thus to rush into a Widows House but my Commission obliges me thereto, and therefore I hope you will excuse me; the Lieutenant Criminal hath commanded me to search all the Houses hereabouts to find out the Malefactor we look for. Our search hitherto hath been to no purpose, and we have but this one House to examine, Give us leave therefore to look into all the Rooms; that we may satisfy our Superiors, and approve our selves honest Men. You may assure your selves, Said she to them, upon my word, that I saw no body come into my House; but that you may have no suspicion that I am a Person who would conceal Murtherers, search and Welcome for him that you were ordered to seize. The Servant with a Wax Candle lighted them into several Rooms, which they were not very exact in searching, that the Lady might think it to be their Civility.

Crispin then took a formal leave of *Rosina*, Recommending the prosecution of the Plot to *Javino* his Confederate. The counterfeit Knight came afterward out of his Apartment, pretending that he was exceeding glad to have escap'd the Officers hands, and in grateful Acknowledgments expreſt himself to the fair Widow for the favour he had received from her. She who the more she viewed him, was the more Enamour'd of him, gave him all man-

[illegible] that he should be waited

if he would have the patience to ſtay till her Father came home ſhe was confident he would not ſuffer him to ſeek any other Lodging.

The Gallant who perceived the Lady began to grow warm, was the more earneſt to beg that leave which he knew would not be eaſily granted, and pretended it would be his ſafeſt Courſe to take Sanctuary in ſome Monaſtry, from whence he might ſend Notice to his Friends where he was; and that he deſigning to go the next day for *Sevil*, it would be dangerous to lie that night at his Quarters. *Roſina* being much concerned to find him ſo reſolved, She the more earneſtly preſs'd him to ſtay; Repreſenting the great hazard he ran, and deſiring him by all means to ſtay an hour or two longer. *Javino* who wiſh'd for nothing more was perſuaded to comply therewith. She then deſired his permiſſion to go, and take Order about ſome things her Father had left her to do. This was only a Pretence to withdraw and confer Notes with a Slave of hers, in whom ſhe repoſed much confidence, what courſe they were to take in this Affair. She called her into a private Room, and made a free Confeſſion of her Paſſion for that Knight, and demanded the beſt Advice ſhe could take herſelf, were ſhe in the ſame condition.

The Slave who was as Subtile as her Miſtreſs, immediately apprehended that the Counſel ſhe would beſt like muſt be ſuch as complied with her Paſſion; I muſt confeſs, Madam, ſaid ſhe, it would argue an exceſſive baſeneſs of nature in you, conſidering the ſhort time you have known this Cavalier to diſcover that he has already gotten poſſeſſion of your

on the other side to perſuade *Garay* when he comes, to ſuffer him to continue here this Night; My Advice is, that ſince the Houſe is large enough and that there are empty Rooms, into one whereof he may paſs through your Chamber, that you lodge him there, without acquainting any of your Family therewith. It ſhall be my care to bring him thither, and ſupply him with all neceſſaries without *Garays* knowledge. You underſtand that *Garay* is to be gone within two days to *Madrid*, and then you may freely Reveal your ſelf to this young Gentleman whom I will eaſily perſuade, that the Officers ſtill continuing their ſearch about this ſtreet, it is abſolutely neceſſary that he ſtay here, unleſs he will hazard both his Liberty and Life.

The Slaves Counſel was extream agreeable to *Roſina's* humour, who ordered her to go immediately and lay clean ſheets on the Bed, and put the Cavalier in poſſeſſion of the Room. This was inſtantly put in execution, and not long after the amorous Widow went to viſit her Gallant; You have reaſon to wonder Sir, ſaid ſhe, that without my Father's permiſſion I have ventur'd to receive you into the Houſe, and in the night too; but to ſecure a Perſon of your Qualifications, there may be a little breach made of the Rules of Civility; I have therefore thought it convenient that as I have been the means of your eſcape out of the Eye of the Law, ſo you ſhould alſo avoid my Father's Sight, that ſo you may remain here in the moſt profound ſecurity. Be pleaſed to think your ſelf obliged to me for this little [illegible] which I render to you very freely,

Favino perceiving the Fiſh had ſwallow'd the Bait, multiplies his Acknowledgments abundantly for this new Favour. This occaſioned variety of Diſcourſe between them, the Iſſue whereof was, that by his flattering Inſinuations he ſtill gained Ground upon her Affections, and by his natural Eloquence in celebrating her Perfections, made an abſolute Conqueſt over her Soul. However ſhe reſolved to have a farther Trial of his ſincerity, and whether what he ſo earneſtly averred was true, that the Charmes of her Beauty were the only Motives that transform'd a Perſon, who fled for Fear of his Life into her Houſe for Shelter, to a confident Lover.

The Slave coming in, and giving her Miſtreſs an Account that ſhe had obey'd her commands, ſhe took *Favino* by the hand and led him into another Room provided for him: He found it light enough, as having in the midſt of it a Chryſtal Branch fill'd with Wax Candles, and a magnificent Collation ready for him. He was a little ſurpriz'd to find ſhe left him alone, but ſhe excus'd it, by telling him that ſhe would be with him again as ſoon as ſhe had ſeen her Father in Bed. At her going out of the Room, ſhe beheld him with Eyes ſo full of Love and Tenderneſs, that this new Demonſtration heightned the Gallant into an abſolute Confidence of the Succeſs of his Enterprize.

Garay was not ſo far ſtricken in Years, but that he had the Vanity to pretend to the ſole Poſſeſſion of *Roſina*. He acted the part of a Gallant, and had he not been already mar-

many other Women do, that are cast off and slighted by their Husbands, bestowed the time of his Absence on those who would accept of her kindness. Some Years had pass'd since he heard from her, therefore imagining she might be dead, he had resolved to make a Journey to *Madrid*, to make a secret Enquiry after her, that in case she had left the World, he might prosecute his Intentions to marry *Rosina*, who was extreamly obliged to him; and upon this Account, he was resolved to depart within 2 Days.

Leaving him in these thoughts, let us return to *Rosina*, who set *Garay* to supper as soon as he came in, and pretending some indisposition, excus'd her self that she could not bear him Company. It being his occasion to go to bed as soon as he had supp'd, *Rosina* staid till she had notice he was fast asleep, and then went to her Gallant, causing her own supper, which was somewhat extraordinary, to be carried along with her. As soon as it was ended, *Rosina*, whose love increased every moment toward her new Guest, intreated him to give an Account of his Life, and sincerely to acquaint her with his Name, his Country, and the occasion of his coming to *Toledo*. *Favino*, whose only design was to Banter her, entertained her with the following Romance, to which she gave earnest Audience.

'My Country, Madam, is *Valentia*, one 'of the most eminent Kingdoms of the 'Spanish Monarchy. You know it well e- 'nough by name, and possibly are not to learn 'that it hath a great Advantage over several 'others both in regard of Nobility and wealth,

mate, and the delightful fruitfulneſs of its Soil. I am of the noble Family of *Perruſa*, well known in that Country; and the King for the many good Services perform'd by my Anceſtors, hath honour'd me with the Order of Kt. of *Monteſa*, and the Commanderie of *Sylla*, which is the beſt of all belonging to that Order. Beſides what that brings me in, I have an Eſtate that brings me in Three Thouſand Crowns a Year. I am the only Son of the Family, and made my Addreſſes to a noble Lady of that City I was born in, named *Donna Sentillana*, one of the moſt illuſtrious Families of *Valentia*, a Perſon of moſt admirable Perfections: I have ſerved her with all the Affections imaginable, whereto ſhe gave me no Return; as being engaged to another Cavalier, named *Don Vincent Parada*: Whereupon ſeeing my Rival preferr'd before me, I was exaſperated beyond Meaſure. *Don Vincent* was a Perſon of ſuch an Humour, that nothing would ſatisfy him but to Rid out of the way whatever might obſtruct his Amorous Pretenſions, and meeting me one Night in the Street where my Miſtreſs liv'd, attended by three Servants, he ſet upon me, though I had but one with me. I defended my ſelf as well as I could, but at length having received ſo many Wounds, it was judg'd they were Mortal. There could never be made any certain Diſcovery of the Perſon that hurt me, yet it being reported that *Don Vincent* was my Rival, the Magiſtrate impriſon'd him; but having clear'd himſelf either by Favour or Money, he was ſet at Liberty. [illegible]

and reflecting on the Advantage wherewith *Don Vincent* had engag'd me, I thought it but a just Requital to fall upon him upon the like unequal Terms; I therefore surpriſed him in the ſame manner as he had done me, and the Iſſue was, that he had got off much more wounded than I had been.

There happened to be ſome in the ſtreet who knew me, and made Oath that I was the man who had done the Miſchief to my Rival; Upon this accident I retired from thence, for he was ſo dangerouſly wounded that his Recovery was deſpair'd of; I ſaw his Friends were reſolv'd to revenge his Death, and was afraid to fall into the hands of Juſtice. This obliged me to leave *Valentia* and come to this City, where I have been about a month, I have ſince underſtood by a Gentleman of that Country that Don *Vincent* is out of all danger, and in perfect health, and that the Treaty of Marriage between him and Donna *Sentillana* is concluded, whereof I have a greater Reſentment than of having this day met with 2 Men who being hired by my Rival came hither on purpoſe to Murder me. They fell upon me in this ſtreet; One I think I have mortally wounded, and by that means made a ſhift to eſcape out of their hands, with the aſſiſtance of thoſe who came in to part us. I found your Houſe open, and being come into it for refuge, I find my ſelf ſo ſecure that I have nothing now to fear but the effect of your fair eyes; and by avoiding one Priſon, I am fallen into another; But excellent Lady, I think my Impriſonment ſo pleaſant [illegible] if your diſcharge me not, I ſhall deſire

'to continue therein as long as I live.

Thus did the counterfeit *Javino* conclude his Relation, leaving *Rosina* extreamly satisfied to observe in that Cavalier not only those Accomplishments which might deserve her Love, but also such intimation of Affection to her, as rais'd in her prevailing Hopes that she might one Day be his Wife; Upon which having ruminated with her self, she return'd this Answer.

'Seignior Don *Javino Pertusa!* I am very 'much concern'd that you should come into 'my Acquaintance upon so sad an Occasion 'to your self, but I am more sorry that your 'return home may be deferr'd; for I could 'wish you would constantly reside in this 'City, and for my part, I do assure you that 'I would use all means in my Power to stay 'you here, yea, though it should be prejudicial to my Liberty. The Advantages you 'would gain thereby, may not perhaps amount to much, yet you cannot but think your self obliged to me for the good Will I bear you, considering the little time I have had the Honour to know you. Such as it is, I shall think my self but too happy, and that I have attained my utmost Wishes, if you will be pleas'd to make any Acknowledgment of it. Possibly I am not handsome enough, but I dare assure you of my good Nature; and with all that, I have otherwise wherewithal to satisfy a Person of your Worth and Quality.

'Madam, (replies Don *Javino*) though I judge my self far unworthy the Favours you have heap'd on me, and more of the good Opinion

me; yet since I have resigned my Heart and
Soul to you, I do not much fear any Dis-
pleasure you can take against me, as to that
particular; your sovereign Beauty hath so
transported me out of my self, that my
Will and Affections are absolutely at your
Disposal. It was a happy day to me, when
I was set upon by those *Valentian* Cut-
throats, since the Mischief they intended
me, procured those many Obligations you
have laid upon me; and I wish I may prolong
my Life for your Service, since if you ap-
prove of the Affection I have for you, as
you are pleased to assure me, I shall get in-
to an Haven where I may defy all Dangers,
in spight of all the Storms of my ill Fortune.
The Thoughts of this gives me satisfaction,
and makes me wholly forget my own Coun-
try, since I can never be more happy, than
in the place where so much Goodness and
Beauty resides.

These Discourses, and others more Amo-
rous, pass'd between him and *Rosina*, where-
by the subtle Youth perceiv'd that she was en-
snar'd by his cunning Insinuations, and instead
of being Courted, made it her Business to
ingratiate herself more and more with him.
The time pass'd insensibly in these pleasing
Conferences, insomuch that it was Two in
the Morning e're *Rosina* retired to her Cham-
ber, though troubled she was forced to do it
so soon; and the Impostor *Javino* presently
went to Bed, extreamly pleased that his Com-
rade's Plot had taken so well.

In the mean time, *Crispin* was exceedingly
perplex'd, that he received no News of what

by reason of *Garay's* being in the House; but as soon as he was gone for *Madrid*, the Amorous *Rosina* allow'd herself more Liberty, her Love to her new Guest not suffering her to conceal her Fondness for him. At length, *Gavino* sent a Letter by a Slave to *Crispin*, acquainting him how he was favour'd by *Rosina*; *Crispin* answered him by the same Hand, sending him a Purse with an Hundred Pieces of Gold, to draw *Rosina* into Play, and to make Presents to her Servants, that he might be sure of them when Occasion serv'd.

The Day on which *Garay* departed for *Madrid*, *Rosina* was employ'd in entertaining a Ladies of the Neighbourhood, a Work she was not at all pleased with at that time, wishing their Absence, and herself in her Gallant's Company. As soon as they were gone, she went up to visit him, whom she found [illegible] a Lute that her Slave had brought him, [illegible] he was an excellent Musician, and had a Taste of Poetry, accomplishments not [illegible] in the Natives of *Valencia*) *Rosina* hearing him at a Distance, came softly into his Room, when he sung a Song of his own Composing, upon the Occasion of his Love, with an unimitable Grace. This added Fuel to the flame of her Affection, which were before grown too violent to be detained within the Bounds of Modesty; but that which ravish'd her most was the Verses he had sung, they being made about her, and the lucky Accident that had happen'd to him.

Whereupon, the Love-sick Widow coming up to him, "What, (said she) Seignior, You are Master of those [illegible]

therewith; yet do not much Wonder at i
as knowing *Valentia* to be famous for excelle
Voices. Mine is but ordinary said he, an
it is rather the Pleasantness of the Wor
than my Voice, that induc'd me to sing.
find (said she) the Words are very nev
and that they were not made above 2 Day
ago: It is most true, (reply'd he) which
not much to be admir'd, since the Subje
they are upon hath such an Influence ov
me, as would made me undertake Impos
bilities, as Transcending whatever I y
thought worthy of Admiration. No Fla
tery, I beseech you (cryes she) for though
know what you say is not true, and that w
must allow a Distance between Men's wor
and their Thoughts, who pretend to lov
when it is only Compliment, yet I cann
but take it kindly from you; Madam, yo
may be deceived in both (said he) therefo
be pleas'd to believe me, when I affirm th
I think my self extream happy for that u
happy Adventure, which procur'd me th
Glory of your Friendship. All I beg of yo
is, that you would be pleas'd to pardon m
Freedom, since my Heart cannot be fuller
Respect for you than it is.

In short, these and other insinuating D
logues, rais'd the Widow to such a high Pit
of Kindness, that the crafty Companion b
gan to relent, and resolv'd to desist from t
Enterprize which had occasion'd his comi
thither, and to love his fair Landlady in e
nest; and thinking he had fully satisfied h
with the Legend he had told her of his L
he [illegible]

and Fortune. She resolved to make her Condition equal with his, and accordingly acquainted him in a short Narrative, That she was descended from the illustrious Counts of *Menezez* in *Portugal*, though she was born in *Badajos*. The cunning Spark immediately apprehended what Game she would be at, and that her Design was to oblige him to Marry her. This was directly contrary to the Sentiments of *Crispin*, who would by no means have him think of any such thing, but continually reflect on the Dangers those Persons are apt to run into, who following the Profession he was engag'd in, are concerned to be expeditious in the Execution of their Enterprises, lest being prevented by some unexpected Accident, they come to make their last Wills at the Gibbet, before they are willing to remove into the other World.

The young Gallant grew still more warm in his Love towards *Rosina*, especially upon the Consideration, that according to her own Relation she was nobly Descended. He used therefore in all ways imaginable to [illegible] her Affections to [illegible] him. She on [illegible] Hand, had the same thoughts, so that concurring in their Desires, like Lovers mutually passionate, *Rosina* carried herself so freely and familiarly towards him, that he might easily perceive she had abandoned all Modesty, insomuch that upon a little Entreaty, she permitted him to do what he pleased. But in the midst of her Embraces, she did not forget her old Acquaintance *Garay*; she reflected on the Familiarities that had pass'd between him and [illegible]

Father. She imagined to herself the Resentment he must needs have at his Return, when he found she had so treacherously forsaken him. She was thinking to give him a Sum of Money privately and so dismiss him: But pondring more seriously upon it, she thought it her best Course to leave *Toledo* before he came back, and to persuade her new Gallant to carry her into his Country Seat at *Valencia*. She resolv'd in Two or Three Days to declare her Mind to him, for *Garay* was not expected home till 15 Days after.

Mean while *Rosina* and her Gallant pass'd away the time very jocundly, and being really in Love with her, was fully resolved to put a Trick upon *Crispin*, and to proceed no farther in his first Design. It was in the Winter-time, when the Nights are longest, that these Lovers shorten'd the long Evenings with an Interchange of Caresses, Songs, and Amorous Discourses, nay, many times they sung together, each several parts to a Musical Instrument he played on.

In these warm Fits (her Heart being open) she told him she had some intentions to leave the House she was in, before her Father's Return from *Arragon*, and to carry along with her all the best Houshold-Goods, and go with him to *Valencia*, since he was so powerful in those parts, and descended from so illustrious a Family; and that her Father would not be displeased with her Marriage when he should come to hear of it. Upon this, the disguis'd Cavalier was forced to discover how it had been contriv'd between *Crispin* and him to Rob her, and being desirous that she should conti-

hus discloſed the whole Affair to her.

MY dear Heart, (ſaid he) having Experienced the Kindneſs and Affection wherewith you have been pleaſed to honour me, I were the moſt ungrateful Perſon in the World, if I ſhould conceal any thing that ſo nearly concerns you; No, I will make an abſolute and full Diſcovery of my ſelf to you, and acquaint you with ſuch things, as have not hitherto ſo much as entred into your Imagination; for which, I have very little Reaſon to expect your Pardon, were it not, that the ſincere Affection I have for you, may in ſome Meaſure alleviate my Crime; I do not ſay you have any Obligations to me for loving you, ſince it is almoſt impoſſible, but that thoſe who have once had a Sight of your excellent Perfections, muſt be Charm'd with them, and become your Captive, as I happily am. My Liberty, and all the Powers and Faculties of my Soul, being abſolutely at your Ladiſhip's Diſpoſal.

'This Preamble, Madam, is only to intreat you to forgive the Offence I have committed againſt you: I now ingeniouſly acknowledge that I am not the Perſon I perſwaded my ſelf, in the Account you required me to give of my Family. 'Tis true, I was born in *Valentia*, but meanly Deſcended, yet of Parents of good Repute. My Father got his Livelihood by the Labour of his Hands, and the Sweat of his Brow, being by Profeſſion a Rope-maker. I found I had ſome ambitious Thoughts above my Profeſſion,

ther's laborious Profession. I went into *Castile*, having before been at *Andalucia*, where I made those Advantages of my Travels, and the Conversation I met with, that I never wanted either Friends or Money. I came to this City in the Company of a Man named *Crispin*, who had been a Prisoner some time at *Malaga*, but for what Crime, he would by no means acknowledge to me. This Person hath obliged me, having born my Charges all the way: Nay, more than that, he hath lent me Money, out of the Confidence of the Reality of my Intentions, to serve him in the secret Trade we managed together. He declar'd his Mind to me one Day, and advis'd me, by some Pretence or other, to get into your House, for he knew you had good Store of Money, and was very desirous to ease you of some part of it. From his Discourse, I found he had been Prisoner at *Malaga* for some Robbery. Now to compass our Design, we pretended a Quarrel, which should occasion me to take Refuge in your House; and in the mean time you have entertained me with such extraordinary Kindness, and have so highly obliged me, that I find your Favours will frustrate *Crispin's* fellonious Project. And now having Acquainted you with the unhandsome Trick we design'd to put upon you, Assure your self, Madam, that I will retaliate it upon himself, and deprive him of what Money he hath, to Chastise him for his Folly; for I abhor to be Ungrateful to a Person whom I love and honour, and from [illegible] Obligations

you, dispose of me now as you think fit, for I am resolved to perish, rather than consent you should receive any Injury, tho' I have Disclaimed the Quality I had unjustly assumed.

Rosina was extreamly exasperated against *Crispin*, not so much for his Design to be Reveng'd on her for the Prank she had play'd him at *Malaga*, but upon an Apprehension that he might have acquainted *Javino* what kind of Person she was, and what Trade she follow'd; whereupon, considering that he had so ingeniously discovered himself to her, and acknowledg'd the Meaness of his Birth, she thought her self obliged to the like, and to give him a sincere Account of her Descent, Course of Life, Friends, and in a word, of all her Adventures till her Arrival at *Toledo*; Love and Wine made her discover all, and *Javino* was glad she was of no higher Extraction than himself; their Equality not only occasioning a greater Kindness, but created some thoughts of a Match between them. They resolved to leave *Toledo* and take up their Residence at *Madrid*: But *Rosina* acquainting him, that she was resolv'd to be Reveng'd on *Crispin*, who had contriv'd such a mischievous Design against her. *Javino* undertook it, telling her that under pretence of their Acquaintance and Friendship, he could easily bring him into the Noose, and not only leave him money-less, but likewise procure him a second Lodging, for fear he should attempt to be quit with them again.

With this Resolution, leaving *Rosina*'s house he went to [illegible] whom he found

Lodging, not expecting that he should have seen him so soon. He was overjoyed to hear how his Companion had insinuated himself into *Rosina*'s Favour; whereupon *Javino* telling him that he wanted another Sum of Money, as well for his own Expence, as to gain the Servants; the Apostate Hermit answered him, he should not want it. By this means, *Javino* thought to oblige him to put a greater Confidence in him, heightned the intended Cheat with a multitude of Oaths of inviolable Friendship. Thus was an old experienc'd Villain brought into a Fool's Paradise; and that *Javino* might live suitable to the Relation he had made of himself, he gave him an hundred pieces of Gold, to be dispos'd of as he pleased, hoping to have them return'd with Ten-fold Interest. He took them out of a Bag where there was 5 or 6 Hundred more, some part of his former Purchases. *Javino* observed the Place where he put his Treasure, and resolved never to rest till he had alter'd the Property of the Purse. While *Crispin* went to give his Landlady Orders for a Brace of Partridges and a Rabbit for their Suppers, he went to the Portmanteau where the Money was secur'd, and opening the Padlock, (a thing he could do as cleverly as any of his Profession) took out the Bag, and dispos'd it into a Place where he might take it with him without Observation. They supp'd very merrily, after which, he took his Leave of *Crispin*, elevating him with the Hopes of bringing his Design to pass very speedily.

He went instantly to *Rosina*, who we may [illegible] receiv'd him with open Arms. He

tween him and *Criſpin*, and how with his own Money, he himſelf had promoted the deſign to plunder him. Being alone, he ſhew'd her the Yellow Pieces, for ſhe had great Affection for Money of that Colour. He then repreſented to her, how much it concerned them to leave *Toledo* before *Criſpin* ſhould diſcover the Loſs of his Money. *Roſina* told him, ſhe knew an Expedient for that, which was to put the ſame Sham upon him there, that ſhe had done at *Malaga*. Having thereupon ſent a Letter to the Provoſt, whoſe Buſineſs it was to proſecute ſuch People, they made Proviſion for their Departure to *Madrid*, and meeting with two Waggons that were going thither, they put their Goods into them, taking only the She-Slave to wait on them. They went to the Court in that City, where, as in a Sea ſo many Rivers meet, *Roſina* having reſolved not to appear publickly there, until ſhe had heard ſome News of *Garay*.

Leaving them there, let us ſee what was the Effect of the Letter ſent to the Provoſt. As ſoon as he had read it, he went according to the Directions therein, attended with ſome of his Officers to *Criſpin*'s Lodgings, who impatiently expecting that *Javino* ſhould let him into *Roſina*'s Houſe, and put him in poſſeſſion of all her Money, was ſeiz'd in his Chamber, and ſent to Priſon. Not long before, one of the Judges of *Malaga* had been at *Toledo* to enquire after him, and not finding him, had left with the Provoſt a Deſcription of his Perſon and Phyſiognomy, by which, though his preſent Habit much diſguiſed him, yet he was violently ſuſpected to be the ſame Man.

which, *Crispin* suppos'd they had met with the Gold, for he knew nothing of its Departure. Being put upon the Rack, he confessed all the Villanies he had committed, for which, he was sentenced to be Hang'd, and was Executed accordingly; having been observed to use such Generosity as not to impeach any of those who had engaged with him in his Designs, though he knew his present dismal Fate had been procured by his Friend *Javino*, yet he forgave him and all the World besides.

In the mean time, *Rosina* and *Javino* were Married as soon as they came to *Madrid*, but kept out of the Sight of *Garay*, who went soon after to *Ascala*, where he had been told his Wife was, but not meeting with her there, he fell in with some of his own Employ, and being surpriz'd in a Robbery, they were all Condemned to the Lash, and six Years Recreation in the Gallies. *Garay* was brought to the Chain at *Toledo*, which gave some little ease to his Mind, for thinking that *Rosina* had been there still, he writ a Letter to her desiring her that since she had acquir'd all she was worth by his Co-operation and Assistance, she would have some Compassion on him, and exempt him from that hard Pennance, by buying a Slave in his Room. The Messenger inquires for *Rosina* where he had directed him, and the Neighbours acquainted him that she had left *Toledo*; so that poor *Garay* burthened with an heavy Chain, Old-age and Hardship, came to have that Relation to His Catholick Majesty, as his Slave, which he and many others, tho' they justly deserved it, little expected to be preferr'd to.

[illegible] like a

Prince at *Madrid*, where he ſoon met with ſome of his old Companions; a ſort of people who like Foxes, never live better than when they are curſt. They committed ſome Robberies with Care and Induſtry, that the Authors thereof could never be diſcovered, by which they were ſo fluſh'd and encouraged, that they daily performed new Enterpriſes.

A Company of Stage-Players were then newly ſet up, at the proper Charge and Liberality of a Grandee of *Spain*, who was very rich, and Furniſh'd them with all they wanted. This freſh Company had the whole Court to themſelves, and their Benefactor gave them by way of Advance, Four Thouſand Crowns, to provide them with Cloaths, and other things ſuitable to the Plays they intended to repreſent; This Sum was brought into the Houſe of one of the Actors, an ingenious Perſon, for whom the reſt had ſuch a Reſpect that he managed all things, and gave them a faithful an Account thereof. He put this Money into a great Cheſt, whereof he always carried the Key about him. *Jacinta*'s Comerades having ſoon an Account of it, and thought it to be a noble Attempt to gain it, they propoſed ſeveral ways to that end; but at length it was referr'd to *Jacinta*, whoſe Advice they had found very fortunate upon other Occaſions. He deſired time till the next Day, and that Night communicating the Buſineſs to his Wife *Roſara*, with the different Propoſals of his Companions, ſhe gave him infallible Directions, how the Buſineſs ſhould be effected.

Jacinta had a Smatch of Poetry upon which

of by the rest of the Conspirators. The next Day, he cloathed himself like a Scholar newly come from the University, in a Cassock, and a long black Cloak, very bare and spotted in many places; they fitted his Nose with a large pair of Spectacles, which were fastned to his Ears with a Lute-string, (a Fashion much used in *Spain*) he had a huge broad-brim'd Hat, with all things requisite, to Act the Part of a Ridiculous Poet, as the way they conceiv'd most probable to compass their Project.

He went thus to the Comedians, who were met at their Theatre, upon the Rehearsal of a Play which was to be Acted within a few Days; He address'd himself to the Director of the Company, saying, 'Sir, I am 'your humble Servant, and a Poet, if it may 'not be any Offence to you. The Comedian was a very apprehensive Person, (as we said) and had often met with such Extravagants as *Pavine* seem'd to be, and replyed, Sir, assure your self it shall not trouble me at all. 'The 'Design of my Studies, (said the other) was 'to become Eminent in Divinity, that so I 'might be capable of a good Benefice; in Order to which, I have already taken the Degree of Batchelor of Arts. I am a *Biscayan*, 'and Allied to the most honourable Familes 'of that Province, and am known by the 'Name of *Dominico Joancho*. I addicted my 'self to Poetry, for indeed I was born a Poet, 'and finding that all people admir'd my 'Works, and many were importunate with 'me to publish them, I would needs make a 'Trial of my Fancy in writing of Plays, which [illegible]

'can furnish you with at least a Dozen, be
'for the Stage. I am come to Court,
'where there are excellent Wits, and I have
'had the Honour to be esteemed here accor-
'ding to my Worth; and I may without Va-
'nity affirm, that the greatest Criticks have
'acknowledg'd my Perfections to be extraor-
'dinary. And I think it my greatest Happi-
'ness, Sir, to flourish in the same Age with
'such a Noble and Illustrious Company, who
'may be call'd the Flower of all those that
'ever were in *Spain*, in whose Service I am
'willing to employ my Talent, if you are
'willing to accept thereof; and as for the
'Price, I know you have so much Honour,
'that I am sure we shall not disagree.

The Comedian was of a very pleasant Humour, and glad of any Occasion to Divert himself; so that measuring his Inside by his Out-side Appearance and Discourse, he told him that he did them a Transcendent Honour, and that he gave him Thanks in the Name of the whole Company. Then turning to his Companions, 'Gentlemen, (said he) be pleased to take Notice of the Renowned *Dominico Joancho*, a Nobleman of *Biscay*, and an Excellent Poet, whose Productions for the Theatre, are beyond all that has been hitherto written, and who offers to exhaust his excellent Vein of Poetry for our Service, having already finished several Plays which he hath a Desire to shew us. The other Comedians by the Discourse of their Fellow-Player, and the ill Equipage and course Looks of the Person, easily discover'd that He and his Wits had taken Leave of each other; which [illegible]

obliged to him, saluting him one after another very civilly, to which he made an handsome Return.

Then sitting all down about him, they desired him to read the Titles of some of his Comedies, which he said were ready for the Stage. The Counterfeit Author, who Acted his part very pleasantly, took a Paper out of his Pocket, and read thus: A Catalogue of Plays, written this Present Year by *Dominico Joanchos*, a *Biscayan* Poet. I. The Extravagant Infanta. II. The *French* Pox. III. Almonds for such as have no Teeth. IV. The Scorching Summer. V. Between two Stools the Arse comes to the Ground. &c. The Comedians could hardly forbear Laughing at the extravagant Titles of the Comedies, and pretended that they should be glad to enjoy his Conversation longer. The principal Comedian desired his Company at his House to Supper, where they would be all ready to Entertain him, and to have an Account of what Play he design'd to Act first. He then departed, promising not to fail them.

Tarine having made this Progress in his business, went and gave his Fellow-Thieves an Account thereof, appointed them to wait about the House where the Money was, he undertaking to amuse the Comedians so long till they had done their Work, which would not be long, since they had all their Picklocks and Implements ready for Men of their Calling. The Players on the other side, prepared all things to shew the Poet such a Trick as they thought his Extravagance deserv'd, prescribing some Squibs and Crackers, (if possible)

left, though it proved to their L[illegible] in the Sequel.

At the Hour appointed, the Sham-Poet came to the House to which he was invited. He who expected him, had provided what was Requisite to make Sport enough that Night for the whole Company; and seeing them all met, said, the Room was too narrow for 'em, and that they had better remove to the Theatre, where they should not be Disturbed. The feign'd Poet was glad at this Offer, because thereby the Coast would be clear about the chief Comedian's House, and his Comerades might more easily dispatch their Affair. It happen'd to his Wish; for the Mistress of the House, who heard her Husband and others of the Company Talk of the Extravagant Poet, and how they intended to serve him, would needs see the Sport; and lest it might be late e're they return'd home, she took all the Servants along with her and left the House empty. They brought the Poet to the Theatre with a great deal of Ceremony, and placed him at the end of a Table on which there were 2 Candles. Having taken one of his Comedies out of his Pocket, and the Company silently expecting, after 2 or 3 Grave Hem's, he began to Read the Verses, but after such a Ridiculous and Fooliſh Manner, that when he had gone over about a Hundred of them, the Players perceiving that the Piece contain'd many Sheets close-written, and Tired with the Impertinence of what they had already heard, and that they had spent the Night so simply, interrupted the Reciter with a kind of Hissing Noise. [illegible]

angry, and clapp'd his Hands with such Violence on the Table, that he shook the Candlesticks, and cried out, aloud, *Tacete!, Tacete!* Hold your Peace! Be Quiet! But the Players and others not understanding *Latin*, the Hurry increas'd, the Table was overturn'd, and the Candles put out, and all retiring from him, they set Fire to the Train laid for the poor Poet. He found himself beset with a number of Squibs, Crackers, and long Bags full of Sand, like Snakes, all in open Hostility against him. He was in a very desperate condition, for there was nothing but Confusion on the Theatre, besides the Flames of Rosin, which came up beneath the Stage, and were ready to Choak him, enough to Cure him of all thoughts of Poetry for the future. He seem'd to take it very unkindly, that he had been brought thither to receive such an Affront; for besides the danger his Timber Cloak and Cassock were in of a general Conflagration, he lost his Comedy, pretending that a greater Damage could not have befallen him.

The Epilogue of the Comedy was somewhat Tragical to the Players, since *Favino*'s Confederates, while the Company was thus Entertained at the Theatre, had found a way into the Comedian's House, and examin'd all the Chests and Trunks that stood in their way, in one whereof they found the Money they took for, which they carried to *Favino*'s House where it was equally divided.

The next Day, the Comedian going to take out some Cloaths, was much surpriz'd to find the Chest open. He ask'd his Wife who had been in the House, she could give him no ac-

and acquainted the Magiſtrate with what had happen'd; the neareſt Streets to his Houſe were Searcht, but to no purpoſe. He fell Sick out of pure Diſcontent, and kept his Bed, and then began to doubt, that it was a Trick put upon him by the pretended Poet, for whom he had made ſtrict Search, tho' in vain.

In the mean time the Officers of Juſtice were upon their Duty, to find whether ſearching for the Poet they could find the Thief. At length they happen'd to ſeize one of *Javino*'s Companions upon Suſpicion, who being put to the Torture, confeſs'd the whole Contrivance; and by his Directions, *Javino*, *Reſina*, and all the reſt of the Confederates, were taken and ſent to Priſon, and they unanimouſly declaring, that *Javino* and his Wife were the only Contrivers of the Robbery, who Liv'd likewiſe at a high Rate, without any Viſible Eſtate, and having none to ſpeak for their Reputation, the two former were Sentenced to be Hang'd, and their Comerades Condemn'd to the Gallies.

Thus Theives, though for their Villanies Renown'd,
Often with ſhame and Infamy are Crown'd.
And thoſe that do their Countries Laws offend,
Their juſt Fate is an Haltar in the end.

THE END.

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